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"Half the people in this country have dreams about the Queen... and half the dreams involve a cup of tea." Bryan Appleyard salutes the first 40 years

TODAY

DANCE ON



Shirley Maclaine may play "crabby old bats" but she still dances when she can, as Valerie Grove discovers Life & Times, Page 1

SUN KISSED



Sunshine could be a life-saver, as the Health page — now appearing on Fridays — explains Life & Times, Page 5



First ladies: Norma Major and Naina Yeltsin at Westminster Abbey yesterday as the Russian leader's wife made her London debut

Yeltsin ends era of enmity

Major pledges economic help

By NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major and Boris Yeltsin yesterday ended decades of Anglo-Russian enmity and laid the ground for the first friendship treaty between their countries for more than 200 years.

President Yeltsin reined back his demands for cuts in Britain's nuclear deterrent and indicated that he would stop aiming missiles at British cities. Mr Major, in turn, promised economic and technological help to rebuild Russia's economy.

A "hotline" is to be set up between the Kremlin and Downing Street, and Mr Yeltsin will return to Britain later this year. Mr Major will visit Moscow if he wins the election.

Last night, after signing a 15-point declaration of co-operation that will be enshrined in a treaty of friendship when Mr Yeltsin returns, the two leaders left for New York, where Mr Major will chair a special UN Security Council meeting to mark Russia's return to the free world. On Saturday, Mr Yeltsin will join President Bush at his Camp David retreat to discuss the arms cuts they proposed this week. Officials in Moscow suggested last night that Mr Yeltsin might then press for still deeper cuts.

Aleksandr Obukhov, a senior arms control official, told a news conference that Mr Yeltsin intended to propose that America and Russia cut the total number of warheads for long-range weapons to between 2,000 and 2,500. The latest strategic arms treaty has set a limit of 6,000. Major General Viktor Koltunov added: "We are including in this number the warheads on ICBMs, land-based and sea-based ballistic missiles and on heavy bombers." Mr Obukhov said Mr Yeltsin

might also discuss cuts in long-range missiles with several individually targeted warheads, known as MIRVs. These are regarded as the most dangerous weapons and Mr Obukhov said their elimination would leave both sides with only single-warhead missiles — one of Mr Bush's key objectives.

When Mr Yeltsin arrived at Heathrow yesterday morning, he appeared intent on pressing Britain to join in the arms cuts, saying: "Of course we shall be calling on the other nuclear powers — Great Britain, China and France — to follow suit." But after four hours of "warm and friendly" talks between British and Russian ministers, he was persuaded that Mr Major regarded the Trident programme inviolate. As he left for New York, he said: "The number of nuclear weapons

at the disposal of the UK is not comparable with ours and therefore the matter is not really worth any discussion." Tom King did say later, however, that Trident submarines would not carry their maximum complement of 512 warheads.

The defence secretary welcomed as "an important political symbol" Mr Yeltsin's offer to target Russian missiles away from British cities, even though Britain pays more attention to the capability of potential enemy forces than to precise targeting.

Defence ministry experts are to be sent to Moscow soon to advise on safe dismantling of surplus nuclear weapons and others will help the Russian defence ministry manage its armed forces in the new political climate — Mr Yeltsin's cuts mean up to 700,000 servicemen could

lose their jobs this year. Mr Major made no specific proposals to prevent Russian nuclear technology and manpower falling into the hands of unstable Third World dictators, but made clear that he was prepared to help.

On the economic front, the prime minister said he was ready to make available £280 million in medium-term export credit cover and investment insurance for Russia and the other former Soviet republics. Britain would also press for early Russian membership of the IMF.

Mr Yeltsin welcomed the moves, but said Western aid to his country was "by no means" enough. "There have been a lot of words about this. Deeds, we need, not words," he said. Norman Lamont later countered that, pointing out in a television interview that Western aid already exceeded the \$12 billion Mr Yeltsin had once demanded.

Yeltsin's visit, page 7
Leading article, page 15
Helping hand, page 19

Kidnapper slips net of 1,000 police

By CRAIG SETON AND PETER DAVENPORT

A MANHUNT was intensified last night for a kidnapper who eluded a massive police surveillance operation and escaped with a £175,000 ransom for the release of a female estate agent he had held captive for eight days.

The abductor of Stephanie Slater, aged 25, escaped with the money from an isolated, fog-bound moorland area on the edge of the Pennines in South Yorkshire when senior detectives took a deliberate decision not to spring a trap to arrest him in case he carried out a threat to kill her.

The money had been dropped off by an estate agent colleague acting as a courier, only five miles from where the kidnapper of another young woman left a hoax bomb in August last year. This, and a number of other similarities between the case of Stephanie and Julie Dart, who was found murdered, have led detectives to closely possible links.

Detectives in charge of the Dart enquiry are convinced that the man who kidnapped her before demanding a ransom of £140,000 has been playing a bizarre "game" with police, in which he has tried to establish his intellectual superiority. In the Slater case police have described the kidnapper as "clever, crafty and cunning".

Her kidnapper had directed the courier to the drop-off point through verbal and written messages along a 100-mile circuitous route. It led to a disused railway bridge by a farm track close to the isolated village of Oxspring, four miles south-west of Barnsley and on the edge of Thurstone moor.

Further details of his elaborate planning emerged last night when a resident near by disclosed that the kidnapper had directed the courier by three signs bearing the word "Shipways" — the name of the estate agents in Great Barr, Birmingham where his victim worked.

The money was dropped off some time between 8 and 9pm on Wednesday. Miss Slater, unharmed but for a slight cut on her hand, was released close to her Birmingham home by the kidnapper at 1am yesterday, after West Midlands police organised one of the biggest covert surveillance operations ever carried out in Britain. Newspapers, radio and television had agreed to a voluntary news blackout.

Over 1,000 detectives from six forces and the regional crime squad, using several hundred unmarked cars, began the operation on Wednesday afternoon after the

Continued on page 18, col 1

Victim's hopes, page 3



Slater: told of "sheer terror" of kidnap

Building a royal dream

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales yesterday made his strongest attempt yet to influence architecture, announcing the foundation of his own Institute of Architecture dedicated to restoring the human dimension in building.

Speaking at the inauguration of the school, based in Regent's Park, London, the prince said that science had produced a mechanistic view of the universe. "We have

been persuaded to see the cosmos as a gigantic machine which could be experimented with and manipulated by man for his own exclusive use," he said.

As a result, man became a mere mechanical object, the prince said. "The sense of humanity's uniqueness is

Continued on page 18, col 2

Prince's speech and diary, page 14

Embattled Haughey to quit next Thursday

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey yesterday announced his decision to resign as prime minister of the Irish Republic and leader of Fianna Fáil.

Mr Haughey will formally resign as party leader next Thursday, when his successor will be elected by secret ballot. On February 11 the new leader will be formally ratified in the Dáil.

He made the announcement during a meeting of the Fianna Fáil parliamentary party attended by all 77 deputies and seven of the party's 32 Senators. Among those absent was Senator Sean Doherty, the former justice minister who engineered Mr Haughey's downfall by claiming ten days ago that he had

known about a telephone tapping scandal in 1982.

Mr Haughey has led Fianna Fáil for 12 years and has been prime minister for a total of seven years. He clearly wanted to continue for some months yet but his coalition partners, the Progressive Democrats, threatened to pull out of the government unless he resigned.

Mr Haughey said that he was grateful to the thousands of people who had sent messages urging him to remain in office, but added: "I have decided that to end the political uncertainty, the time has come for me to hand over to a new leader."

Haughey profile, page 2
Leading article, page 15



Silent appeal

KEVIN Maxwell is to petition the House of Lords to avoid answering questions about missing pension funds.

The petition will ask for permission to appeal against Wednesday's decision in the Court of Appeal that he was obliged to provide information to Robson Rhodes, the provisional liquidator of Bishopsgate Investment Management, which managed the funds.

Lords petition, page 19

French outraged over treatment for Habash

By PHILIP JACOBSON AND RICHARD BEESTON

PRESIDENT Mitterrand intervened last night in a growing political dispute over George Habash, the radical Palestinian guerrilla leader, receiving hospital treatment in Paris for a stroke.

Mr Habash was flown there from Tunis on Wednesday and underwent emergency brain surgery in a Red Cross hospital yesterday. His group, the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, carried out the first Middle East airliner hijackings. Opposition parties attacked the Socialist government for failing to block the admission of Mr Habash to a neurological ward.

Mitterrand, on an official visit to Oman, intervened in the growing dispute, warn-

ing of the "possible judicial implications" of sheltering a man who has proudly claimed responsibility for many bloody terrorist attacks around the world. "If he is not particularly ill, his stay in Paris should be extremely brief," the president said.

Dr Habash's men carried out a series of hijackings and attacks, including the May 1972 incident at Tel Aviv's Lod Airport when Japanese Red Army gunmen opened fire in the terminal building, killing 27 civilians. His group was also responsible for the June 1976 hijacking of an Air France airliner to Entebbe airport in Uganda, in which four civilians died when Israeli forces launched a commando

Continued on page 18, col 4

Breast beats bottle in quest for brainy babies

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BABIES reared on breast milk are likely to be more intelligent than those who are bottle-fed, according to research findings published today. The results of a long-term study in The Lancet strongly suggest that human milk contains a blend of hormones and other materials that improve brain growth.

Doctors have found that premature babies who were given their mothers' milk by tube had, by the time they reached seven or eight years of age, significantly higher IQs than those who did not receive maternal milk. The "brighter" children did better at a range of intelligence tests,

including timed responses to mental challenges and the use of designs and coloured patterns. The findings take account of other possible explanations, such as breast-feeding mothers tending to be better educated and from higher socio-economic groups.

"We haven't proven beyond doubt that human milk enhances neurological development, but our evidence strongly supports such a hypothesis," Alan Lucas, the researcher who led the study, said yesterday. Dr Lucas, the head of infant and child nutrition at the Medical Research Council Unit, Cambridge, found in the milk contained in the breast milk of mothers who had breastfed their children for at least six months.

The milk also has thyroid hormone and other natural chemicals that influence the brain's development, he said. Dr Lucas said: "Until very recently, these substances have not been included in artificial feeds, but the manufacturers are responding to the scientific evidence. What seems to be happening is that the mother is sending chemical messages to her newborn infant, through the medium of her breast milk, that regulate important growth processes such as development of the brain."

The accumulating evidence that, compared to formula feeds, breast milk is nutritionally superior, gives better protection against infant infections and some diseases later in life, and offers intellectual enhance-

ment could have a big impact on public health policies, he said, and encourage manufacturers to mimic natural milk in formula feeds. The health department strongly advocates breast feeding, as does the World Health Organisation.

The research involved 300 premature babies, who were first studied at the age of 18 months. Premature babies are born at a stage of rapid brain growth, and doctors wanted to see whether, as previous evidence indicated, early diet affected their later performance. The new study also lends weight to the theory that the milk itself, rather than the bonding process of breast feeding, or the mother's parental skills, affects intelligence.

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Schools let pupils down

Almost a third of English schools are still failing their pupils. Her Majesty's Inspectorate reported in the annual assessment of state education. Some independent schools are also "unacceptably poor". Page 2

In the pipeline

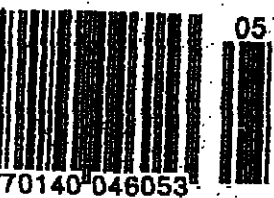
The government is to back a cross-Channel pipeline that may supply Britain with Russian gas. Page 19

Cash drive

A lust for money and a bruised ego drove a beauty queen to concoct a tale of rape against Mike Tyson, a court was told. Page 10

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Exit the great escaper who finally ran out of moves

CHARLES Haughey, the great survivor of Irish politics, has done much for his beloved country but he may not be remembered for it. Historians will find themselves preoccupied with the scandals which dogged his total of seven years as Taoiseach, and the repeated attempts to remove him.

"Charlie", or "The Boss", as he is known to his devoted supporters, has been around since the early 1960s, bringing to Dublin politics style, charm and charisma but also a Machiavellian streak which has convinced his opponents that he cannot be trusted with the affairs of state. He has inspired and divided his country. There is hardly an Irishman alive who has nothing to say about him: they either loathe or adore him.

For many, the way Mr Haughey pulled himself up from humble Dublin origins embodies all that is good in the modern free Ireland. He has come to encapsulate for them the cultural and nationalist identity of a country still deeply embittered about its subjugation by Britain. But to his detractors he has long been seen as the worst symptom of a politically immature state, a man with a grasping determination to hold on to power at any price, and yet who has achieved so little with it.

In a famous speech uttered during the last major scandal but one to afflict Mr Haughey, Dick Spring, the Irish Labour leader,

Despite his great love for his country, Charles Haughey, who resigns as Taoiseach next week, is fated to be remembered chiefly as the Houdini of Irish politics. Edward Gorman reports

described him as a cancer eating away at the heart of the Irish political system. Garret FitzGerald, the former Fine Gael leader, had claimed in December 1979 that Mr Haughey came to the premiership with what he called a "flawed pedigree". He said that those who had worked with Mr Haughey attributed to him "an overweening ambition which they do not see as a simple emanation of a desire to serve but rather as a wish to dominate, even to own the state".

Mr Haughey, aged 65, was born to a poor farming family in County Mayo in 1925. After schooling in the country the family moved to Dublin where the young Cathal, as he was known to his relatives, first entered politics. During the 1950s he made a number of unsuccessful attempts to win a seat in the Dáil, finally succeeding in March 1957, when he was elected for Fianna Fáil as the member for Dublin northeast.

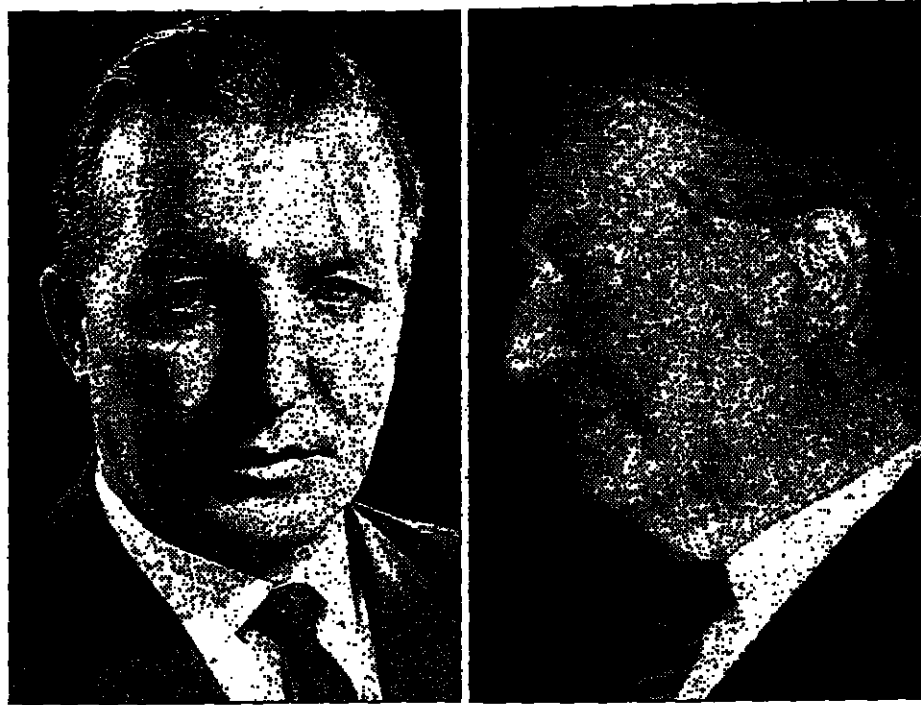
His political profile had been much enhanced within the proud ranks of the party by his marriage six years earlier to Maureen Lemass, eldest daughter of Sean Lemass, the former prime minister, but at the same time

marked him out to his future enemies in the party, who considered him an upstart using his new-found social position to fulfill his ambitions.

Mr Haughey, rapidly turning himself into a millionaire on the property market, reached the cabinet remarkably quickly as minister for justice in 1960 at the age of just 35. He then held successive posts throughout Fianna Fáil governments in the 1960s until the arms crisis in 1970, when his career came to an abrupt halt.

In those early years Mr Haughey, an unabashed capitalist and republican, established a reputation as a brilliant, clear-headed operator who worked hard and fast and who was capable of driving through layers of bureaucracy and getting things done. He enjoyed his position as a good looking and much admired young man, often seen around the night spots of Dublin, who was already beginning to inspire fierce loyalty among his friends but deep suspicion among his rivals.

Those suspicions seemed to his opponents to be borne out when Mr Haughey was charged in 1970, together with another cabinet minister,



Passage of time: Mr Haughey in 1970 and, right, in Dublin yesterday

with conspiring to import arms into the country illegally to help the IRA in Northern Ireland at the beginning of the current troubles. Mr Haughey was eventually acquitted but in the meantime he had been sacked by Jack Lynch, the prime minister, and was in disgrace.

The episode helped to establish Mr Haughey on the more Republican grass roots wing of Fianna Fáil, which has remained loyal, while in Britain it marked him out for suspicion which has coloured

the establishment's view of him ever since.

During the early 1970s Mr Haughey worked the constituency organisations of Fianna Fáil, endlessly visiting local party activists in a bid to rehabilitate himself. That he succeeded was largely due to his personal popularity, his undoubted ability to sell himself and the sympathy many in the party felt for him after the arms trial. He came back to the shadow cabinet in 1975 and two years later was appointed minister for health and social

welfare. The remarkable turnaround in his fortunes was completed in December 1979 when he was elected leader of the party and Taoiseach, replacing an increasingly unpopular Mr Lynch.

Since then Mr Haughey has led four different administrations but has never fulfilled his early potential. In reaching the top he created too many enemies and has been continually beset by attempts to have him removed. As a result he has directed more of his energies simply

to staying in power than running the country, while also tackling a stream of scandals, some connected to his government's determination to remain in office, others to his promotion of people not suited to the jobs entrusted to them.

The worst period was during his second so-called "GUBU" (Grotesque, Unbelievable, Bizarre, and Unprecedented) description accorded to events by Mr Haughey himself, in 1982. A man sought for murder was discovered hiding in the apartment of the attorney general.

Allegations emerged that two journalists suspected of receiving leaks from a cabinet source had had their phones tapped. Not long afterwards further allegations surfaced involving the bugging of a minister's phone. There were also minor scandals too, involving land deals and court cases. Despite not being implicated himself it helped to entrench an image which reinforced claims by his critics that he was not fit to run the country.

In power Mr Haughey has been very tough on the IRA while sticking to his ultimate dream of a united Ireland. His relationship with Mrs Thatcher started well, but quickly soured in December 1980 after her officials claimed that he had tried to misrepresent the implications of a meeting with her for British policy in Northern Ireland.

In opposition he fiercely

criticised the Anglo-Irish agreement — which he said would copper-fasten partition — typifying a generally destructive approach when out of office, but has since worked it thoroughly and become an enthusiastic supporter.

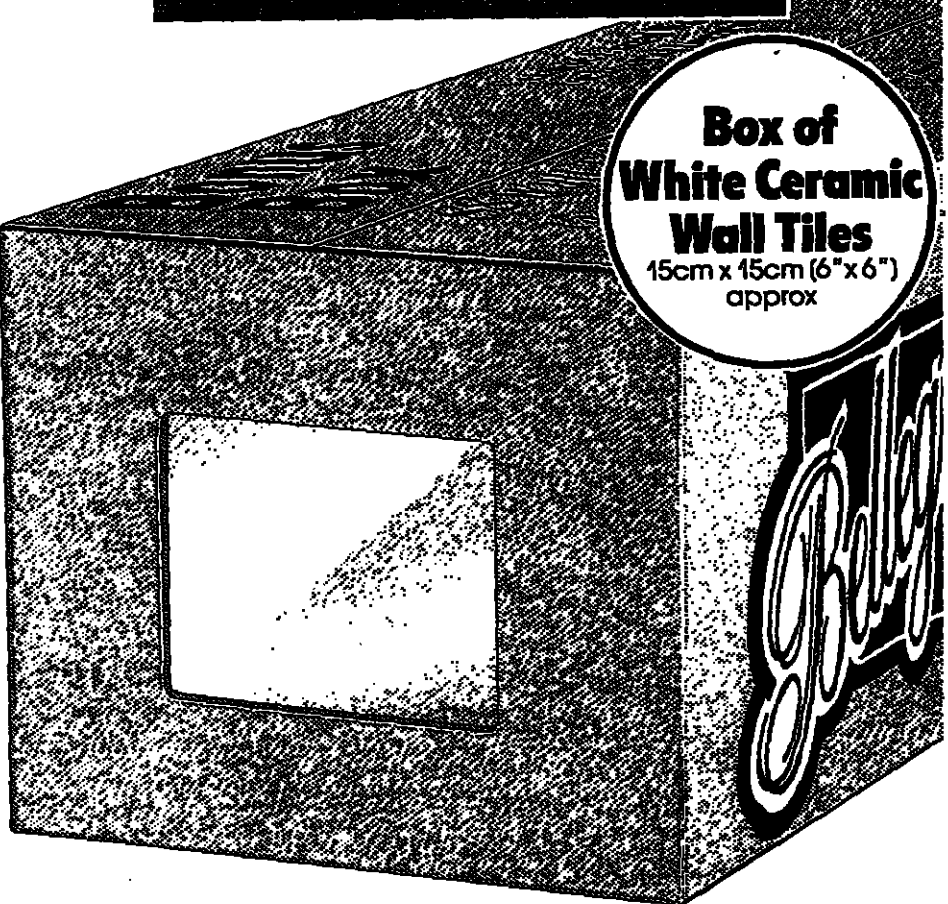
Mr Haughey was not known in his early days for the economic conservatism which has characterised his later years: when he has shown a realistic determination to limit public expenditure, to bring inflation down and to increase job opportunities in one of Europe's most impoverished economies. He has been an enthusiastic European who fervently believes in the single market and in the full political integration of European states.

Mr Haughey is a personable man with a great sense of humour. He is a lover of Irish culture who lives in an elegant country mansion just north of Dublin. He also owns his own yacht and an island holiday retreat on the west coast of Ireland.

Throughout his long career Mr Haughey has demonstrated an amazing determination to hold on to power come what may, earning him the sobriquet Houdini. There has, however, proved to be no escape from the allegations by Sean Doherty, his embittered former justice minister, that he knew about the 1982 phone tapping episode.

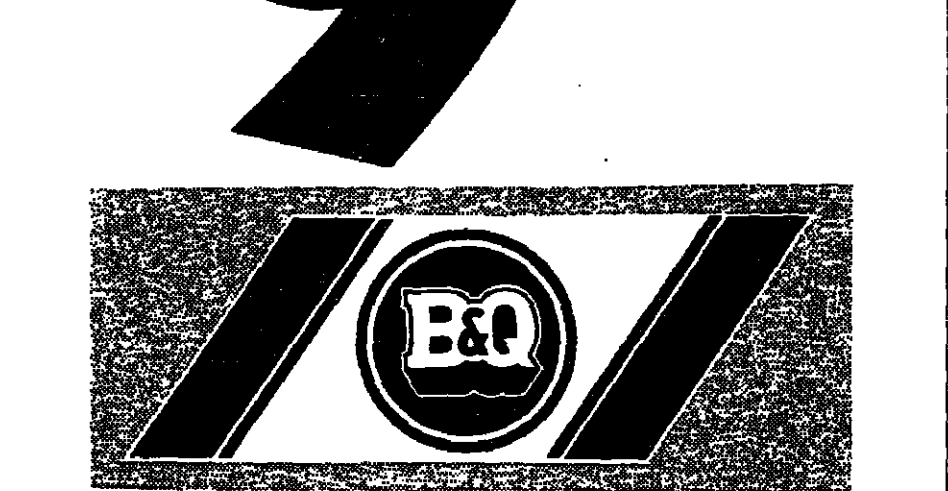
Haughey resigns, page 1

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Annual education assessment

Third of schools fail their pupils

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a third of English schools are still failing their pupils. Her Majesty's Inspectorate reported yesterday in the annual assessment of state education. Some independent schools are also "unacceptably poor".

Observation of more than 50,000 lessons in 7,000 schools and colleges showed no noticeable improvement on the past two years, in spite of government initiatives. Dr Terry Melia, the senior chief inspector, said that standards would only begin to rise when the national curriculum had "bedded down".

Although much of what inspectors saw during 1990-1 was at least satisfactory, 30 per cent of lessons in primary schools and 27 per cent in secondary schools were poor or very poor. Standards were lowest in inner-city schools, where more than half of 15-year-olds played truant and the turnover of teachers remained high. In one London junior school, only three of the 14 staff had been in post for longer than a year, and 31 teachers had left in four years.

Dr Melia expressed particular concern about persistent under-achievement in the seven to 11 age group, where 45 per cent of lessons were sub-standard. Class teachers were struggling to match the work demanded by the national curriculum for pupils of all abilities. Most primary teachers had gaps in the expertise needed to cover all nine curriculum subjects.

Yesterday's report, which will be the last to rely entirely on visits by the inspectorate if the government's schools reforms are implemented, is the third in succession to find fault with up to 30 per cent of lessons. The less academically able, pupils from some ethnic minorities and children in

disadvantaged areas were worst served. Although the state of buildings and equipment had improved, 30 per cent of schools still had deficiencies and almost half had inadequate libraries. Split sites, insufficient specialist accommodation, and maintenance arrears remained common.

Standards in grant maintained schools and city technology colleges were better than in most local authority schools, while independent schools varied widely, Dr Melia said. "Some independent schools achieved the highest standards found in

the country. Others offered unacceptably poor provision of a standard considerably below that generally found in the maintained sector."

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "The report delicately describes a system in transition. Most parents would better recognise the word chaos. Schools have had to face a different national curriculum document each week for the last three years."

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers said that teachers should be proud of their work. Nigel de Grouchy,

the general secretary, said: "To succeed for three-quarters of the time is very creditable, especially considering the chaos engendered by all this government's reforms."

Stephen Byers, who chairs the Council of Local Education Authorities, said that the inspectors' verdict meant that two million children were receiving sub-standard education. "After 12 years of this government's neglect of the education service, this disturbing report should come as no surprise. Our children are the innocent victims of this government's failure to take education seriously."



Over and out: the driver of this petrol tanker escaped injury when it overturned after skidding on black ice yesterday on the A325 near Petersfield, Hampshire. The crash was one of a large number of accidents in Kent and the Home Counties caused by dense and freezing fog. James Henderson, aged 46, of Rainham, Kent, died in a five vehicle

pile-up on the M2 near Gillingham. A second crash near Sittingbourne closed a 20-mile section of the M2. In Surrey, five men and three women were slightly injured in a crash involving 75 vehicles on the M25.

With further widespread fog and ice expected today, police are advising motorists to travel only when necessary.

Man 'dumped wife alive in acid bath'

A WOMAN took more than two hours to die after being strangled by her husband and dumped in a tank of acid, a jury at the Central Criminal Court, London, was told yesterday.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, said that Cecil Jackson, a builder, murdered Dassa, aged 30, and tried to dispose of her body in order to collect £57,000 from a life insurance policy. Mrs Jackson, it was claimed, was not dead when she was put into a bath of hydrochloric acid in a locked garage.

Mr Jackson, of Manor Park, east London, denies murdering his wife on February 25 last year, but is pleading guilty to manslaughter.

Two pensioners passing by heard banging and a woman's voice shouting for help. They forced open the garage and "there was an overwhelming acid smell", said

Mr Bevan. "Mrs Jackson was at the front of the garage sitting in a pool of seaming liquid. At the back of the garage was a vat-like container steaming quite furiously. Her top clothes seemed to be in tatters. She was obviously in terrible pain."

Mr Bevan said the pensioners dared not touch her and she crawled from the pool to just outside the garage where she lay semi-conscious until an ambulance arrived. She died in hospital.

The couple married in 1983 and had two children aged five and three, but their relationship was turbulent. Mr Bevan said. She left him in August 1990 and had an affair with a family friend but later returned.

The jury was told that Jackson acquired £57,000 from the life insurance policy, the tank and the week before the trial. The trial continues.

Appliances must carry fitted plugs

By DAVID YOUNG

ALL domestic electrical appliances sold in shops will soon have to be fitted with a correctly fused 13 amp plug after the announcement yesterday by Edward Leigh, the consumer affairs minister.

Mr Leigh said: "Too many people are injured every year because of incorrectly wired electric plugs. I am responding to widespread support for this move from both industry and consumers. I believe that evidence now justifies the introduction of this measure, but rules alone cannot prevent accidents. Plugs should be checked regularly to make sure that they are safe."

Mr Leigh's decision follows the trade and industry department's review of the safety of electrical sockets, which were first introduced in 1987 because

of concern about the number of accidents in the home involving badly wired plugs. Millions of appliances are sold every year without plugs. Buyers with little or no experience of wiring plugs are left to do the job themselves, and often use plugs fitted with the wrong size fuse.

The proposed change was welcomed by the electrical appliance industry and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. ROSPA said that 28 people were electrocuted in their homes in 1990 and about 2,000 needed hospital treatment as a result of accidents involving appliances. Family plugs were the cause in more than one in ten of the accidents. The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances said the reform would allow fair competition.

Prison closures halted

The government has been forced to overturn proposals to close six prisons and young offender institutions because of a sharp increase in the prison population; more than a thousand prisoners are being held in police cells (Richard Ford writes).

Kenneth Baker announced the decision as his officials are studying measures to deal with overcrowding, including the use of ships to house prisoners. In spite of the government's desire for more offenders to serve their sentences in the community, the prison population is now 46,700 — 3,000 more than forecast a year ago.

In an attempt to ease the pressure, the home secretary said that the closure of six institutions and a change of role at a number of others would not now go ahead. The prisons remaining open are Haverhill in Wiltshire, Kent, and Norwich (Britain) along with two young offender institutions at Finsbury Wood camp, Buckinghamshire, and Wexington in Staffordshire.

Museums shut

A strike by civil servants will close the British Museum, Tate Gallery, and National Portrait Gallery today. The action will cause disruption at the Royal Courts of Justice, the High Court, Passport Office, employment and social security departments, and Customs offices. The unions want a 23 per cent increase in the London weighting allowance, which has been frozen since 1988.

Family in squalor

A family evicted from a council house after claims of racist behaviour — was last night squatting at another home in Huddersfield owned by Kirklees council. Robert Maginness, the father, said: "I have a duty to put a roof over our heads and this is the best I can do." The council said it had met its legal obligation to provide short-term accommodation but that the family was now on its own.

Phone censure

A recorded telephone appeal for film extras, which The Times disclosed on Monday merely offered to put applicants on a register, has been censured by Icfis, the watchdog committee chaired by Louis Blom-Cooper, QC. Icfis said the advertisement and the premium rate service (48p a minute, 36p a minute) breached its code of conduct and had to be amended.

CORRECTION

Yesterday's report of the slander action in which Edward Garner appeared for the successful defendants quoted him as having made certain comments outside the court. We are glad to make clear, and we accept that he in fact addressed these comments to the judge during the final moments of the hearing.

'I was kept going by thoughts of home and the family and the fact they were looking for me'

Kidnapped woman never gave up hope of release

By CRAIG SEITON

STEPHANIE Slater described yesterday the moment when she knocked on the front door of her home in the early morning to be greeted by her dumbstruck and overjoyed parents after eight days of captivity.

She said: "There were lots of hugs and kisses. I do not think words were really needed. It was like learning to walk all over again. It was freedom and it was fantastic to be back home. It was overwhelming. I just want to get on with my normal life and get on with it. You just have to. If you dwell on it, you will not go anywhere again."

She said she had felt "sheer terror" when abducted, and added: "You cannot put that sort of feeling into words."

Miss Slater, an estate agent's negotiator aged 25, disappeared after going to show someone a house for sale. She said: "It was just like any other viewing to me. I had that many. It took me by surprise. I feel a lot better now I am back. It has been difficult. It has been hard."

Flanked by her mother and father, Miss Slater was speaking at a press conference after her kidnapper set her free from his car in a side street near her parents' home at Great Barr, Birmingham, at 1am yesterday. After more than 180 hours of captivity, she walked to their home and knocked on the door.

Miss Slater, the adopted only child of Warren and Betty Slater, said that she had been looked after in captivity and had never given up hope of being released. She said: "I had soup and porridge. I was well fed and had lots of KitKats and something like a bed to sleep on. I was allowed to listen to a radio."

The kidnapper forced Miss Slater to tape record instructions to her employer, the Shipways estate agent, to pay a £175,000 ransom. Knowing that her parents would

listen to the tapes had helped her to cope, she said.

Police would not let her give full details of her abduction, captivity or release until she had been interviewed, but she said: "I did not give up hope. I was kept going by thoughts of home and the family and the fact they were out looking for me. I was led to believe I would be released. I was reassured on that."

Miss Slater, who has worked as an estate agent for seven years, said that she loved the job and wanted to go back in spite of the risks, of which she had known. "It does pass through your mind, but if you stop to think about it, you would never do anything - you would never go out at all," she said.

She said that she had not been reunited with Kevin Watts, manager of the Shipways office in Great Barr, where she had worked since last month, who acted as courier to pay the ransom that secured her release. She now wanted to hold a party.

Mr Slater, aged 58, a haulage company employee, described the moment that his daughter came up the path to their semi-detached house. He said: "There was a knock... We were dumbstruck. It has been frightening and now I am very drained, but it is wonderful. We were told there was no doubt that she would walk through the door, and she did."

Mr Slater heaped praise on the West Midlands police operation. He said: "The police force that has helped this child is unbelievable. It has had a bad press, but that is a load of crap. These people are fantastic. We will never be able to repay them."

Mr and Mrs Slater, who adopted Stephanie at six weeks old, said that one of the worst parts of the ordeal was not being able to tell friends what had happened because of the news blackout. Mrs



Reunited: Stephanie Slater hugging her father, Warren, after the eight-day kidnap ordeal during which she felt "sheer terror"

Slater, aged 58, a factory packer, said: "There are still a lot of people who do not know. We have not been out since last Wednesday."

After Miss Slater was abducted on January 22, police intercepted a tape cassette and letter containing instructions for the ransom to be paid. The tape contained a message read by her, but clearly dictated by her kidnapper. She could be heard saying: "I can assure you I am OK and unharmed. Providing these instructions are carried out, I will be released."

The following Sunday, five days after she disappeared, came another sign that she was still alive. The kidnapper telephoned her parents' house. The call was answered by her father, who heard a man with a Yorkshire accent ask: "Is that Mr Slater?" When he replied that it was,

the man just said: "Listen..." There followed a brief taped message from Miss Slater, saying: "Hello, it's Stephanie here, just to let you know that I am all right and unharmed. I want you to know that I love you and not to worry too much, and whatever the outcome, I will always love you. Look after the cat for me." Then, the line went dead.

Another part of her message, not released by police, referred to a news item of the previous 24 hours, confirming that she was alive at least up to the Saturday. Police thought it was an attempt to "put the squeeze" on her parents and, through them, Shipways to pay the ransom. Mrs Slater had to be given sedatives during the ordeal.

The Slaters told Stephanie when she was 18 that she was not their natural daughter,

and although she was to make contact with her real parents, who live in nearby Warkley, her love for her adoptive mother and father never diminished.

Miss Slater attended Churchfield comprehensive school in West Bromwich. Although she has had several boy friends, she is not in a firm relationship at present. She enjoys going with friends to pubs and clubs and is keen on astrology and astronomy. She owns a powerful telescope and uses it to study the stars from her back garden. Miss Slater also writes short stories, some of them about highwaymen, and poetry.

She worked for an estate agent's next door to Shipways until she joined that company, part of the Royal Insurance group, last month.

Police hunt, page 1

First moves in abduction began three weeks ago

January 7: "Mr Southwall" telephones Shipways in Great Barr asking for details of properties about £63,000.

January 8: "Mr Southwall" visits Shipways at 9am and collects house details, including those of 153 Turnberry Road, one of about 15 properties he knows are unoccupied.

January 15: Shipways receives letter signed by "Mr Southwall", giving false address in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and asking to view 153 Turnberry Road on January 22. Said he would telephone to confirm.

January 20: "Mr Southwall" telephones to confirm appointment at 10.30am on January 22 and is told for first time that a female employee will meet him.

January 22: Miss Slater leaves Shipways by car. At 10am neighbours see a man answering Mr Southwall's description outside 153 Turnberry Road.

12.10pm: Kevin Watts, branch manager at Shipways, receives telephone call from a man saying he has kidnapped Miss Slater and is holding her to ransom. Says he will call again the next day and warns her life will be in danger if police are informed. Mr Watts goes to the house and finds Miss Slater's car outside and keys in house. Police informed.

3.20pm: man telephones Shipways asking that house "be secured". Police have set up tape recorder, but the person answering the call forgets to switch it on. Police launch Operation Kahan.

January 22/23: police sift two million items of mail at Birmingham sorting office and intercept handwritten envelope addressed to Shipways, containing a tape of Miss Slater's voice and a typed note. Both contain a demand for £175,000 to be paid by Shipways. Postmark too blurred to read.

January 23-24: scientific tests on background noise on the tape and to establish postmark on envelope. West Midlands police liaise with West

Yorkshire detectives on case of Julie Dart, murdered by man demanding a £140,000 ransom.

January 25: forensic scientists identify sorting code and a postman recognises the stamp used, enabling identification of the office where the letter, posted near Stafford, was handled.

January 26 - 2.11pm: telephone call to Miss Slater's parents. Man's voice is followed by tape of her voice, sending her love, saying she is OK and asking her parents to "look after the cat". Recording contains item of national news which had taken place over previous 24 hours.

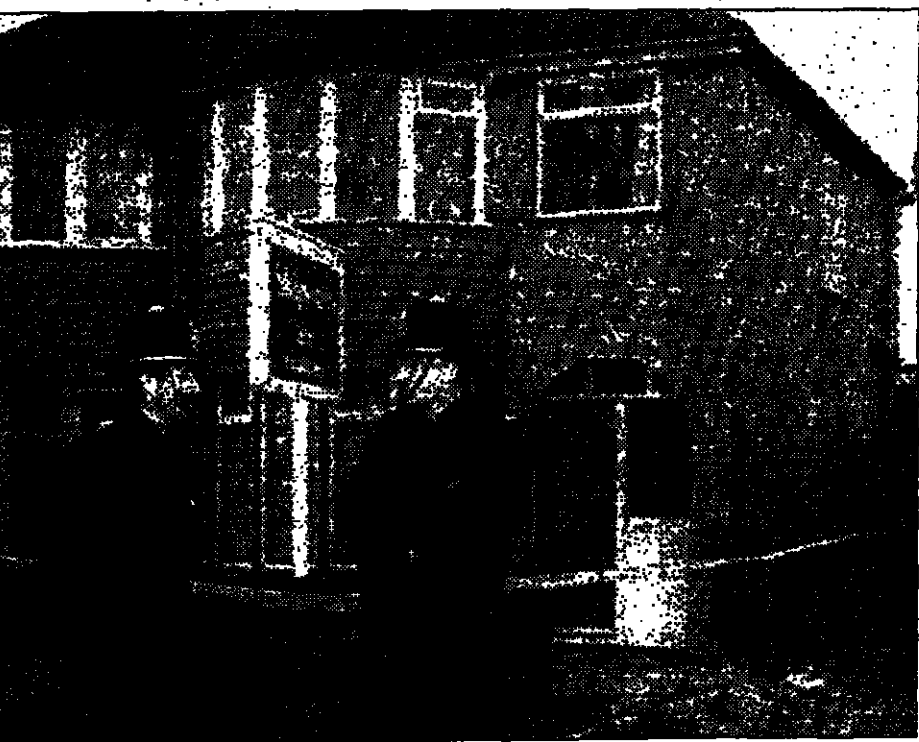
January 27: police say that the kidnapper appears to have a Yorkshire accent and that there are similarities between Miss Slater's abduction and the murder of Miss Dart, aged 18, from Leeds, last July, after which detectives received ransom demand for £140,000 and letters from man claiming to be "playing a game" with police.

January 28: Shipways executives and police prepared to pay the ransom money. January 29: police at 3.30pm launch a preplanned operation involving over 1,000 detectives after kidnapper sends new message to Shipways, one of at least two that day. Kevin Watts instructed to take money to unspecified drop-off point in the north of England. Mr Watts travels over 100 miles northwards before leaving money in a deserted rural location and returning to Birmingham.

January 30 - 1am: kidnapper drops Miss Slater in a side street near her parents' home in Great Barr.

10.17am: police confirm ransom was picked up but no arrest made. Say that a decision was taken not to put Miss Slater's life in danger by revealing officers' presence to kidnapper.

1pm: Miss Slater at press conference to tell of her ordeal.



Guarded: the house at Turnberry Road, Great Barr, where the kidnap began

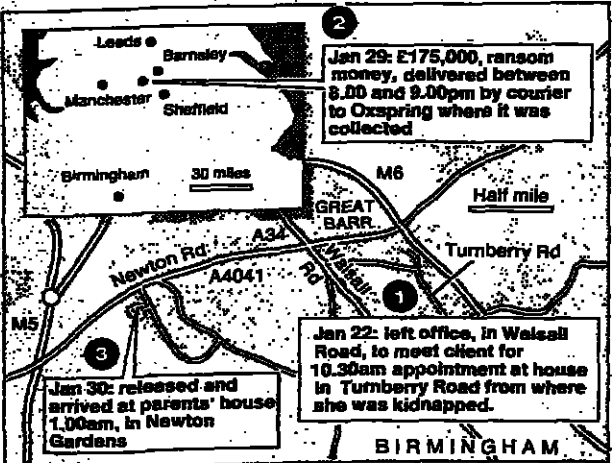
Police learnt from mistakes

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BY PUTTING the welfare of the victim above the arrest of the kidnapper, West Midlands police were following the advice of a slim manual of national guidelines on the handling of kidnap cases. Written more than seven years ago and presently being reassessed, the manual's advice is based on the grim experiences of the Seventies.

In 1970, police expertise in such cases was so limited that they had to turn to the FBI for advice when Muriel McKay, the 56-year-old wife of the deputy chairman of the News of the World, vanished. Two men were later jailed for the kidnap of Mrs McKay, who was seized because she was thought to be the wife of Rupert Murdoch. A ransom of £1 million was demanded but not collected and the body of Mrs McKay has never been recovered.

The other case that paved the way for change was the kidnapping and murder in 1975 of Lesley White, an heiress aged 17, by Donald Neilson, nicknamed the Black Panther. He had demanded £50,000. The police



THE HUNT

work in the case came under criticism.

Within months of the girl's death, Scotland Yard had decided on a new policy of taking the press into police confidence in return for a blackout on details of a kidnap case until its conclusion. In November 1975 the Yard tried out the policy in the case of Aloï Kaloghris, the 17-year-old daughter of a wealthy Cypriot family, held to ransom for £60,000. For

the past 16 years the Yard and the press have continued to honour the blackout system, although not without difficulties. Four years ago the system was applied nationally. The press is normally briefed daily on developments and then free to publish at a agreed point.

Many recent cases have ended with the release of victims or arrests and few known ransoms have been paid. The manual does not advise against paying ransoms but police usually counsel against payment if possible.

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Car dealers call for early MoT 'for safety'

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR dealers are trying to persuade the government to force cars through an MoT test after only one year on the road, instead of three.

Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary, has been told by the Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents 13,000 dealers, that motorists are attempting to save money by cutting back on routine servicing. Tens of thousands of year-old vehicles, it claims, could be unroadworthy or causing unnecessary pollution.

The federation, which denies that hard-pressed dealers simply want to make more money from new MoTs, said that 40 per cent of three-year-old cars taking the test for the first time fail — as many as 800,000 this year.

The plan is seen as one of the most controversial on offer inside the transport department, where officials are not anxious to add to the burden on private motorists and business users by imposing a new £20 test.

The federation, which hopes that increasing worries over car pollution will force the introduction of an earlier test, said yesterday that the recession had led to cars covering higher mileages in their first three years of use.

High-mileage company cars — about three million vehicles in Britain — were also vulnerable because of the intensity of their use. With no legal compulsion on motorists or companies to carry out regular servicing, the federation says that the MoT is the only safety check available.

Neil Marshall, director of economic affairs, said: "This is not a question of dealers wanting to make extra money from MoT tests. There is little profit in the MoT. There are worries over the safety of vehicles which are being kept

longer and serviced less, which therefore means that many of them could be unroadworthy. We are asking the government to take this into account so that we can ensure that the vehicles on our roads, whatever their age, are as safe as well as efficient."

Industry experts also believe that an MoT test a year after sale will be necessary to ensure that new cars are properly tuned so that they can meet exhaust emissions regulations, controlling vehicle pollution.

Alan Pulham, director of the federation's franchise retailer division, claimed that there would be substantial benefits to consumers because an early test would give more information about a car's service history.

Motoring, L&T, page 7



Roll out the barrels: draymen delivering beer across the frozen lake surrounding Waterton Park Hotel, Walton, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Beer is normally carried across the lake to the hotel in a small punt because the only access is a narrow footbridge.

Freed protester to challenge jailing

By LIN JENKINS

A GRANDMOTHER who spent 15 days in Holloway prison, north London, for failing to pay her poll tax was freed yesterday by a High Court judge who granted her leave to seek a judicial review.

Ann Ursell, of Sittingbourne, Kent, was released by Mr Justice Potts who accepted that Swale borough council and Faversham and Sittingbourne magistrates had acted against natural justice in the way she was committed to prison.

Mrs Ursell was jailed for failing to pay the £298.97 tax last year. She claims that as a married woman dependent upon her husband she has no

income of her own to pay the bill.

Sonal Ghelani, Mrs Ursell's solicitor, said that Mrs Ursell was ordered by magistrates in November to pay £10 a week and made subject to a suspended warrant of commitment to prison. Having failed to pay she receiving a further demand and she requested another hearing, but the warrant was activated and she was arrested on January 15.

"The judge agreed that the procedures used, where Mrs Ursell was not recalled to court before she was committed, was grounds for judicial review," the solicitor said.

Poll tax objector wins £100

By KERRY GILL

A COUNCIL and a firm of sheriff officers who tried to take a dishwasher and television from a woman who refused to pay her poll tax have been ordered by a court to pay her £100 compensation.

Gordon Dangerfield, solicitor for Jetta Dennis, of Dumfries, has begun proceedings against the council and the officers in what is believed to be the first case of its kind since the introduction of the tax. They would, he said, be placed in the embarrassing position of having their own goods assessed for sale if they did not compensate his client.

Dumfries and Galloway council decided to hold a warrant sale to recover two years' unpaid poll tax from Mrs Dennis, whose husband John is co-ordinator of the region's anti-poll tax union. The couple's bureau, television set and dishwasher were earmarked in November 26 for a warrant sale.

At a hearing in Dumfries sheriff court earlier this month Mr Dangerfield said the bureau was an essential piece of furniture under the Debtors (Scotland) Act, and that the dishwasher was owned by Mr Dennis. The sale of the television, he added, would cost more than it was worth.

Mr Dangerfield said yesterday that the order forcing the council and the sheriff officers' firm, Gray Scott and Company, to pay £50 each to Mrs Dennis was because Sheriff Lewis Cameron had considered they had acted "frivolously".

"I argued that by forcing Mrs Dennis to seek a court hearing and then simply sending a letter at the last minute instead of being represented, the council and sheriff officers had caused my client unnecessary trouble and expense and had therefore acted frivolously," Mr Dangerfield said.

He said he had instructed another firm of sheriff officers to start warrant sale proceedings against the council and Gray Scott and Company. "If they do not pay, their property could be pointed [assessed for sale]. I cannot say at this stage what particular items would be selected."

"Tools of their trade are excluded by law but the council has thousands of pounds worth of video equipment which does not come into that category," he said.

John Stewart, the council's finance director, said: "The council has no legal obligation to pay expenses in this case."

"We have spoken to Gray Scott and they accept that they would be liable for any expenses for which there is a valid order. Meanwhile we will pursue the correct legal process to recover the unpaid poll tax."

Liverpool rail shut by rising waters

By RONALD FAIR

RISING water has forced the closure of the Merseyrail underground, which carries 50,000 Liverpool commuters a day. The water table beneath the city has risen more than 40ft in the past decade, corroding lines and damaging electrical equipment.

David Evans, of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport workers, said that tide marks had appeared along platform walls, and that lines worst affected are having to be replaced after only a third of their normal life.

Water is leaking into the system faster than underground pumps can clear it and Merseyrail has ordered a complete closure of the underground loop line beneath Liverpool until February 10 to allow engineers to carry out urgent repair work and replace stretches of line. The system claims to be the most heavily used rail network outside London with 45 million passenger journeys a year.

A spokesman for Mersey Travel, which pays BR £28 million a year to use the lines, said that the problem had been aggravated by the decline of industry on Merseyside. Many factories used to take their water from the sandstone bed beneath the region and some had drilled their own wells, keeping down the natural level of the water table. The sugar refiners Tate & Lyle used to extract millions of gallons every week. As demand has fallen the water level has risen.

A £200,000 "repair programme has begun to improve drainage to divert running water away from the rail lines. Four pumping stations are removing 6,000 gallons of water a minute from the system."

Mersey Travel said that a third of the population of Merseyside lived within walking distance of a railway station, which accounted for the popularity of the system. Extra bus and ferry services are being provided while the rail network is closed.

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Just remember to make a note on the booking form or tell your Travel Agent. It's no use relying on the fact that the hotel may spot the remnants of confetti in your hair when you arrive.

As it is such a special holiday, what about upgrading your accommodation? A little, I mean a room's very nice, but a suite is even better and, if it happened to have its own private pool it would be pretty near perfect, unless you'd rather have a villa to yourselves that is.

Which would also be ideal for anyone looking for the escapism of total rest as the ideal counterpoint to a hectic life. A holiday whose primary objective is to

The South Africa brochure is easier. At least there's only one country on offer and all you have to do is make up your mind how to make the best of one of the sunniest climates in the world, and decide whether a Fly-Drive, one, two or three-night holiday would suit you best.

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Now there's a recommendation, but if he'd got fed up with bowls and wanted to try his hand at other sports he might have preferred Durban with its five championship golf courses, a racetrack, year-round surfing, sailing, tennis, fishing and swimming and, as if that wasn't enough, just beyond the city there are hundreds of miles of sun-drenched beaches, flower-filled forests and more than 30 different game reserves.

And, speaking of game reserves, Kruger National Park takes a bit of beating. When it's up with a visit to

think about it, it's a feast for the senses. What about the trip of a lifetime, a round-the-world tour?

And even then there are four different options with all sorts of fascinating add-ons available.

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And, if at the end of the day, you'd rather design your holiday yourself, there is even a tailor-made department to work with you to achieve the perfect bespoke holiday. You see what I mean, about the problem of choice?

In many cases there's the opportunity to add on an extra day or two, stretch a weekend perhaps to make the most of the available time and spoil yourself just that little bit more.

Some cities have recommended excursion tours to get the best overall view in the shortest possible time and, in many cases, these can be booked with the holiday.

A City Break can make the winter go by just that much quicker, put romance into the air in spring, make summer extra special or turn autumn into a season of discovery.

Radio s
tune in

BARBARA WILSON

April 15

Vitamin D seen as key to fighting disease

High level of colon cancer linked to lack of sunlight

BY THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CANCER patients are to take part in a study to see whether lack of sunlight plays a role in their disease. Researchers believe that vitamin D deficiency is a factor in the development of cancer of the colon. Only small amounts of the vitamin are found in food, and its main source is the action of sunlight on the skin.

Hundreds of patients with colorectal cancer will undergo tests and answer questions on their diet and lifestyle, including their exposure to sunlight during trips abroad.

The five-year study at the Hope hospital, Manchester, and Manchester University, the first of its kind in Britain, is part of a joint project with doctors in San Diego, California, who will recruit a similar group of patients. The doctors have found that the death rate from the cancer is ten times higher among Manchester women than among women in San Diego, one of America's sunniest cities. The doctors believe that the difference could be explained by vitamin D deficiencies in the British patients.

Geoffrey Sandle, a consultant gastroenterologist in Manchester, the principal investigator of the study in Britain, said yesterday: "The amount of sunlight we receive may affect our risk of this disease. Vitamin D intake helps the body absorb calcium and we think that malignancy of colon cells depends on how those cells deal with calcium." He said that if it could be shown that vitamin D deficiency was important in the cancer process, it could lead to recommendations for dietary vitamin supplements for sections of the population at increased risk of colon cancer. "There just isn't enough vitamin D in the British diet, and our climate suggests we don't get enough from sunshine either."

Dr Sandle will be helped in the study by Barbara Mawer, a biochemist and senior research fellow at Manchester Royal Infirmary. Dr Mawer, an international authority on the vitamin, said: "Some forms of vitamin D appear to be able to control cancer cells, or make them behave less aggressively. It will be interesting to see whether there is a link between low levels of the vitamin and higher risks of colon cancer."

More than 12,000 people a year in Britain die from the disease and about 17,000 new cases are recorded annually.

Dr Mawer said that there was no doubt that excessive sunbathing could cause skin cancer, but that a few minutes of sunlight a day were enough to provide sufficient vitamin D. "There is no reason to discourage people from sitting in the garden on a nice sunny day. The levels of sunlight in this country are unlikely to be damaging."

Can the sun save your life?
L&T section, page 5



Horse power: Steve Kerry and Samson, a shire-cross, sweeping the streets of Bradford, West Yorkshire yesterday in an environmentally sound way. Three shire horses bought by the city council and kept at Bradford Industrial Museum are attracting thousands of extra visitors to the museum, and now the

authority has decided to give them a job. In a throwback to the days before motor cars, Samson, Ben and Thomas will be hitched to flower-watering machines, street cleaners and mowers, offsetting the £50 weekly cost of keeping each horse. Keith Thomson, environmental action committee

chairman, said: "It would be wrong for them to be stuck in a museum like stuffed animals. They need a regular diet of work. Horses are strong, steady workers, do not pollute the environment, are cheaper than vehicles, and help to balance the stress and pace of modern life."

Radio station told to tune in to the truth

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CAPITAL Radio has been ordered not to repeat its frequent on-air claim that it is "Europe's biggest and most successful commercial station" after a listener complained to the Radio Authority that the statement was untrue.

Capital admitted to the authority that its claim was just "presenter hyperbole" but said it should have been seen as such by its listeners.

The dispute comes a week before Capital submits its bid to the Radio Authority for the second independent national radio licence.

An authority spokesman said: "Capital could be considered the most successful station in the UK in terms of profitability and audience numbers, but it is not a national station and conveniently forgot there are national stations throughout Europe that are much bigger and certainly just as successful."

Only if it won the latest national AM radio licence, likely to be for a pop or "golden oldies" station, would Capital stand any chance of rivaling Europe's top national stations.

James Galpin, of the Association of Independent Radio Companies, which measures radio ratings and profitability, said: "If they ran a Capital Gold service [a radio station playing hit records from the past] nationally and achieved the same proportion of listeners across the whole of the UK that they have in London while attracting proportionally the same amount of advertising revenue, then they could become a big European station."

Capital was also criticised for two broadcasts ruled offensive and in bad taste in the latest listener complaints bulletin, for the final quarter of last year.

A listener found a joke

made by Chris Tarrant, Capital's *Breakfast Show* presenter, about a game called "Gay Monopoly" insulting to gay men and women. The authority said that the remark was "tasteless and out of context". A Capital spokesman said: "Chris is totally irreverent to everybody and most of our listeners take it in the spirit in which it was meant. He never means his remarks to be taken seriously."

The authority upheld another complaint about Capital's *The Rap Show* during which all the vocals of records played concerned drug dealing and violence, and one described an orgy with a minor. The complainant said the choice of records totally belied the concerned, caring attitude portrayed during the day by the station with *Help A London Child* and the *Help Line*.

Capital said it usually edited out, or made unintelligible, swearing and foul language in rap and hip hop music played on the show and would try to adhere more strictly to this policy.

Fire at Linley's shop blamed on heater

BY PETER VICTOR

A FIRE which caused tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage to Viscount Linley's furniture shop in Chelsea, west London, was thought last night to have been started by a faulty electric heater.

The shop, in King's Road, which sells furniture designed by Lord Linley, aged 30, caught fire in the early hours of yesterday morning. Ruth Kennedy, of David Linley Furniture, said that a number of pieces designed by the viscount had been damaged, but the company was still trading.

Viscount Linley, son of the Earl of Snowdon and Princess Margaret, arrived at his shop at about 5am, by which time the fire had been put out, and helped colleagues to secure the premises. He spent five hours sifting through the wreckage.

The fire is thought to have destroyed 20 pieces of furniture each worth between £2,000 and £10,000. Later the viscount said: "We are all very upset by what has happened and are now doing our best to get our showroom



Lord Linley at his shop yesterday

back into working order." The viscount, who trained as a designer and cabinet maker at the Farnham School for Crafts in Wood, was recently commissioned to write a book about furniture. He has also been linked with plans for a new television series. His furniture business took off after he made a dining table for the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Viscount Linley employs 12 craftsmen to make the exclusive furniture, each piece taking about three months to produce.

quite full. Obviously one regrets change if one is backward-looking, but this is going to make it a much nicer place for everybody. The water is quite unsavoury as it happens, although it's not dangerous so."

Dame's Delight, the female equivalent of Parson's Pleasure further up the river, was closed in 1971. Laura Craig Gray, Magdalen College's women's officer, said: "It was felt that some people were using Parson's Pleasure to display themselves. I have heard of people punting late in the evening or at night, when the site was operative shall we say, who have been quite frightened. It's not something you really want to stumble on when you are not expecting it. I look forward to going there myself."

Dr Robert Lucas, secretary to the curators, said: "I am not a bather myself, but I gather from my staff that for a few days last summer it was really

Injuries kill man 27 years after crash

A man hit by a car when he was six years old died 27 years later as a result of the accident, an inquest has been told.

James Grice, aged 33, of Longbenton, Tyne and Wear, apparently recovered fully from his injuries in 1965, but on new year's day this year he was found semi-conscious in bed by relatives after he failed to turn up for a family lunch. He was taken to hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne, where he died 15 days later.

Peter Cooper, a senior consultant in pathology, yesterday told an inquest in the city that Mr Grice had died from multiple organ failure brought on by a "very severe epileptic fit", presumably related to the car accident.

Relatives told the coroner that they were baffled as to how Mr Grice had suffered the fit after so many years. Dr Cooper said: "It is certainly curious. You are more likely to have a fit after drink."

Alan Thompson, also of Longbenton, said that Mr Grice, his brother-in-law, had suffered head injuries when knocked down in 1965. He had had some fits in hospital, but the last that anyone could remember occurred when he was ten years old.

Leonard Coyle, the coroner, said: "The epilepsy is a direct cause of this accident when he was struck by a car." He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Church pastor risks jail term

A church minister who grabbed a student's breasts after ordering her to strip naked as they prayed for her to pass accountancy exams was yesterday warned that he may be jailed. Abiodun George, of the Seraphim and Cherubim church, in Plumstead, southeast London, rubbed the woman's naked body with a candle, grabbed her breasts and told her "The Lord says we should marry". Isleworth crown court was told.

Remanding George on bail for social reports, Judge Bathurst Norman told him: "For a priest to abuse his position in this way makes it a very serious matter... You may well finish up in custody." George, of Mill Hill, northwest London, had denied indecently assaulting the woman at her home at Northolt, northwest London. He claimed that she had tried to blackmail him.

Great escape

Two burglars broke out of a newsagent's shop at Barnstaple, Devon, after being sealed in by police and a glazier who repaired a window they had smashed. The newsagent, Richard Lellion, faces a £350 bill for the glazier's two visits. Police said officers had considered it impossible to enter the shop, with glass still in the window frame, and a dog handler had found a trail leading from it.

Horse attack

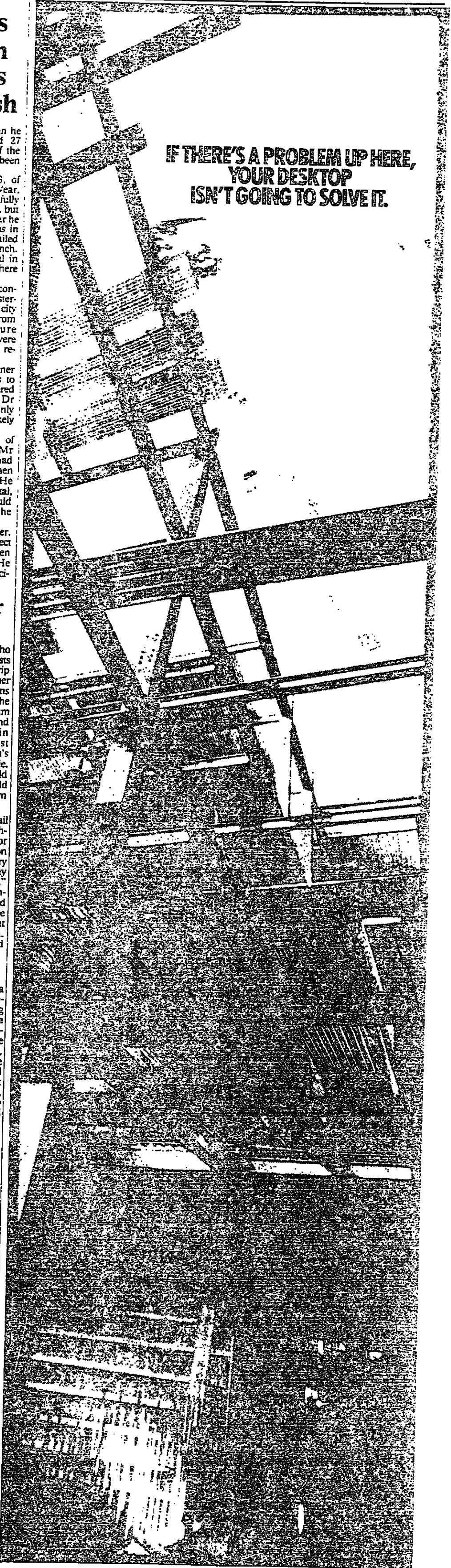
A horse was nearly burnt to death after being tied by its tail to a fence by arsonists who set fire to a stable at Basingstoke, Hampshire. A passer-by freed the animal, which had suffered burns, and firemen caught it after it bolted into a road.

Job ticket

Jobless people on the Isle of Wight are being offered half-price ferry tickets to the mainland to help them to get jobs. The Red Funnel ferry company is making the offer on weekdays "in recognition of the island's employment problem".

Shop blast

Two people were cut by flying glass when a shop at Loudwater, Buckinghamshire, was wrecked in an explosion when a can of cigarette lighter fluid fell off a shelf into an electric fire.



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Repossessions 'threaten marginal seats'

Homes slump hits Tories

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday condemned the government's record on housing and interest rates, and claimed that mortgage repossessions were highest in Tory marginal seats.

Publishing an analysis of Tuesday's repossession figures, Clive Soley, the shadow housing minister, said the greatest increase in repossessions was in the North West where court orders rose by almost 51 per cent. The highest percentage increase was in Bury, where orders shot up by 260 per cent, and Birmingham experienced a 79.5 per cent rise.

"These are crucial battleground areas in the general election and the Tories will pay the price," Mr Soley said. He blamed John Major's action as Chancellor in putting up interest rates and his action as social security minister in halving income support payments of mortgage interest for the first 16 weeks of unemployment.

Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, also argued that the housing slump was "decimating" Tory heartlands in the South of England. A Labour survey of house prices in 30 towns and boroughs in the South,

covering the constituencies of several Tory ministers, showed that house prices fell on average by 15 per cent between the end of 1988 and 1991. In a quarter of the towns surveyed, house prices were lower in cash terms than they were in 1987.

In the prime minister's Huntingdon constituency, house prices had dropped by 28 per cent in cash terms since 1988, according to the survey. Mr Gould said there was a substantial "feel-bad factor" running through the marginal seats that the Tories would be desperate to defend.

"Margaret Thatcher promised the dream of a home-

owning democracy. John Major has delivered the nightmare of repossessions and homelessness," he said.

Margaret Beckett, the shadow Treasury chief secretary, claimed that the Tories always forced down interest rates before going to the country in a general election "only to let them bounce back up again as soon as the election is safely out of the way".

Prime minister's question time in the Commons was also dominated by electioneering. Labour accused the prime minister of being "panicked" on Tuesday into making a pledge - that he had no intention of keeping - not to

raise VAT. Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, asked if the prime minister's statement on VAT on Tuesday was "a categorical assurance" that there would be no VAT rise.

John MacGregor, leader of the House, who was standing in for Mr Major, said: "He made the position absolutely clear on Tuesday."

Mr Hattersley, deputising for Neil Kinnock, countered that Mr Major had also made the position clear on April 6 when he said that "no honest government could give a categorical assurance that they would not increase VAT - no government ever has and no government ever will".

Mr MacGregor repeated that Mr Major had said there would be no VAT increase.

Last night Tory right-wingers urged the prime minister to adopt a bolder image in the run-up to the general election. Thatcherite supporters of the Conservative Way Forward group said the public now knew Mr Major as a pleasant, hard-working and trustworthy person. "The safety first image may have served him well, but a bolder image is now necessary," says an editorial in the group's magazine, *Forward*.

Scottish plans attacked

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday accused Labour of using Scotland as a guinea pig to test proportional representation (Jill Sherman writes).

Charles Kennedy, the party's president, said that PR could not be "ringfenced" for one area without affecting the rest of the United Kingdom. He admitted that the Liberal Democrats would be looking closely at Labour's new voting system for Scotland, but indicated that the party would not accept a pact with Labour unless PR was extended more widely.

On Wednesday Labour outlined plans to take the first steps towards PR for its proposed Scottish parliament, using the additional member system. Labour officials made it clear that the system was not a precedent for Westminster or regional assemblies in England.

Hunt ban bill to get an easy ride

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government has signalled a weakening in its support for foxhunting by allowing Conservative MPs a free "conscience" vote next month on the Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill.

Ministers are understood to be divided, but a decision was taken not to impose a whip on MPs to vote it out.

In spite of the significant shift within the Tory ranks, the bill's sponsor, Kevin McNamara, the Labour MP for Hull North, also needs to overcome two hurdles at the end of the second reading debate on February 14. He has to muster 100 MPs to vote for the bill to continue its passage, and win a majority in favour of the principle of a ban on hunting.

Although MPs' postbags are filling up with letters and petitions from the anti- and pro-hunting lobbies, Mr McNamara is working hard to win pledges from sympathetic MPs to stay in London on a Friday, rather than disappear to their constituencies, to ensure the bill is not lost. If successful, the bill will be examined in committee.

Although lack of time will prevent the bill becoming



McNamara: trying to muster 100 MPs

law this parliament, a substantial vote in favour would greatly increase the prospects of parliamentary approval for a ban on hunting after the general election.

There are doubts about the drafting of the legislation which is designed to ban hunting by outlawing the use of a dog to kill, injure, pursue

or attack a wild mammal in most cases, and making it illegal to inflict unnecessary suffering on, or cruelly ill-treat, such animals.

Mr McNamara has drafted a new clause to exempt shooting, which the field sports lobby believes could be caught by the bill in its present form.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Social fund gets £6.2m

The government is making a further £6.2 million available for the social fund, from which social security offices provide money for essential household items for families too poor to buy them.

Making the announcement in a written reply, Nicholas Scott, the social security minister, said that the new money was additional to the £40 million provided last August and the £3 million in November. The gross discretionary budget for 1991-2 is £277 million.

Ulster hope

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, spoke of his "hope and expectation" that talks on the political future of the province would resume after the general election. Challenged on the security situation, he said at question time: "Peace will come when the terrorists realise, as they must, that they will never be allowed to prevail."

Holidays fixed

John MacGregor, leader of the House, standing in for the prime minister, said the government had no plans to change bank holidays. May Day, he said, was now a celebration of the end of socialism.

Top team

A British Houses of Parliament rugby team is to play an Irish Dail XV on Saturday morning before the full England-Ireland international. The legislators will be playing not at Twickenham, but at the nearby Richmond College ground.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: medicinal products; prescription by nurses etc bill, and Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill, second readings. Lords (11): Coal Industry Bill and Osteopaths Bill, second readings.

Looking ahead

The main business in the Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Debate on private member's motion on dangers of nuclear proliferation. Tuesday: Motion on English revenue support grant. Wednesday: Higher and Further Education (Scotland) Bill, remaining stages. Motion on Welsh revenue support grant. Thursday: Debate on Opposition motion on the recession. Friday: Private member's bill: Timeshare Bill, second reading. The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be: Monday: Further and Higher Education Bill, third reading. Tuesday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, sixth and final day. Wednesday: Debate on changes in former Soviet Union. Thursday: Charities Bill, report, first day.

Labour's offer to co-operate is spurned

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

MINISTERS said yesterday that there was no question of taking up Labour's offer of co-operation in pushing through in a single day a bill to make computer evidence admissible in court cases involving poll tax arrears.

This follows Wednesday night's fracas over the Education (Schools) Bill when Opposition MPs attempted to force an all-night sitting. The debate was cut short when ministers decided that Labour intended to filibuster. They claimed that Labour had refused to say what concessions it wanted in return for allowing the bill through.

The business originally planned for yesterday, motions on revenue support grant, has been rescheduled for next week.

Ministers say that the day taken out of the timetable by Labour's delaying tactics has squeezed the tight pre-election Commons timetable and shown that they could not be sure of the promised co-operation on the computer evidence bill.

John MacGregor, the leader of the House, yesterday introduced the timetable motion to curtail debate on the Education (Schools) Bill, which privatises school inspection and provides for the publication of individual schools' exam league tables.

The measure cleared the Commons last night, though not before MPs had continued Wednesday night's acrimonious exchanges. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, accused Labour MPs of embarking on a "daft filibuster". Jack Cunningham, shadow leader of the House, countered by saying the government had cut debate in a panic to clear parliamentary business before polling day.

UK tries to level cigarette prices

BY JOHN WINDER

THE government is trying to reach agreement with other EC countries to reduce the risk of tobacco smuggling next year when routine frontier controls are abolished.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, a transport minister, told the House of Lords yesterday that Britain wanted other countries to raise cigarette prices towards UK levels for health, fiscal and trade reasons.

At present, the price of cigarettes varied from 32p a packet in Spain to £2.33 in Denmark, with UK cigarettes the second most expensive at £2.08.

In a separate written answer, Gillian Shephard, minister of state at the Treasury, said that a wide range of anti-smuggling measures were being planned for next year by Customs and Excise. These would be largely intelligence-based, allowing additional inland resources to detect and deter any growth



Lord Brabazon: seeking equality in Europe

in illicit trade. Department of Health regulations, which require health warnings in English on all tobacco products sold in the UK, would also help to identify illicit imports, she said.

Under an EC agreement travellers will be allowed to bring in 800 cigarettes if they are bought duty paid. Duty-free shopping arrangements will continue until 1999.

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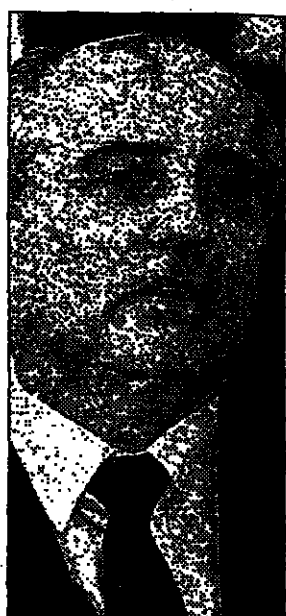
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Echoes of trusted Gorbachev formulas carry on



Gorbachev's "Star Wars" line continues

BORIS Yeltsin has spent the past two days in intensive rehearsal for what will today be the first address to the United Nations by a leader of Russia. His advisers have promised an exposition of the new Russia's foreign policy. Mr Yeltsin has led his audience to expect a clean break with the Soviet past.

Yet, from Mr Yeltsin's statements on Wednesday and yesterday, it is hard to know whether we are looking at a new Russian foreign policy with a few distinctly Soviet characteristics, or old Soviet policy with a few new, Russian characteristics.

The old Soviet preoccupations are never far away. In his nationwide address on arms control on Wednesday, Mr Yeltsin stressed three elements that were leitmotifs of Mikhail Gorbachev, his Kremlin predecessor. He said the ultimate aim was a nuclear-free world, and the

sooner the better. He called for a world ban on nuclear testing and emphasised the pre-eminence of parity in all arms control moves.

Like Mr Gorbachev, Mr Yeltsin continued to distance himself from the American SDI or "Star Wars". He insisted that Russia would be delighted to co-operate with the United States on a global anti-missile security system as long as it was "instead of SDI". In his first arms control proposals, Mr Yeltsin also displayed the same penchant for counting numbers of missiles, launchers and warheads as his predecessor, preferring — in traditional Soviet style — gross numbers to proportions or any other measure of capability.

In the joint declaration he signed on behalf of Russia with John Major yesterday, Mr Yeltsin continued the Soviet predilection for written "friendship treaties", as

A leader of Russia will address the UN today for the first time, but Mary Dejevsky finds little evidence of a break with traditional Soviet policy

though nothing could be real unless it was set down on paper. The declaration, which, among other things, proclaims the end of the Cold War, is the sort of formalistic pledge of which Mr Gorbachev was greatly fond and which he even managed to persuade a selection of European countries — not to its eternal credit, Britain — to sign.

Mr Yeltsin's treatment both of his London visit and his eye-of-visit interview with David Dimbleby of the BBC, also betrayed some unfortunate traces of late Gorbachevism. They included his insistence that Russia does not really need "help"

as such, only "co-operation", even as the European Community is sending in thousands of tonnes in food aid and America is about to embark on an airlift to 54 cities which are incapable of feeding themselves.

In addition, he also offered a milder version of Mr Gorbachev's well-worn apocalyptic scenario, which boils down to: "If you don't help us, then you will be the first to suffer." "If... our reform fails and conservative forces come to power in Russia," he told the BBC, "the arms race will start again in the UK and the US and other nuclear powers". Mr Yeltsin gave his warning a "capital-

ist" twist by adding that "the taxpayers will have to pay... billions of dollars, which is hundreds of times more expensive than to help pay for our reforms not to fail".

The presence in Mr Yeltsin's statements of so many elements redolent of Mr Gorbachev's Soviet security policy can be explained by the Russian president's use of many of the former Soviet leader's foreign policy advisers.

His recruitment two weeks ago of Yuli Vorontsov, the former Soviet and now Russian ambassador to the UN, suggests a sudden recognition of the gaps in the knowledge and experience of his existing apparatus in this field. Mr Vorontsov, an old arms control and Soviet diplomatic hand, is likely to be the author of his arms control initiative on Wednesday and of today's address at the UN.

The other constraint on Mr Yeltsin's foreign policy is the need to preserve Russian national dignity at a very trying time. A 150 million-strong nation which has become used to being treated as a superpower is reduced to penury.

As was apparent from his BBC interview, foreign policy and arms control are not areas in which Mr Yeltsin feels instinctively at home. His strength at present, perhaps always, is domestic policy. For him, as for so many of his constituents, abroad — and especially the West — is an alien place, a prosperous place which mysteriously "works".

This does not mean that he harbours any hostility or malign intentions, or that he is ignorant. It does mean that he is not prepared to adjust to us in a way that Mr Gorbachev was, but it also means that his power is in

some ways more real, because his people are behind him.

Russia is drawing in its horns of necessity, and the process will probably continue. It is becoming a regional, not a global, power. For this reason, the debut of Russia at the Security Council today may well be also its farewell as a global power. This would suit Mr Yeltsin, the Russian politician, and, sensitively handled, it should also suit the West.

● Moscow: Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking in his new role as elder statesman, last night offered warm but patronising praise for the disarmament initiatives launched by Boris Yeltsin.

In comments to the Tass news agency, he emphasised that it was his own diplomatic efforts which had paved the way for the latest breakthrough.

UN summit seeks to set seal on end of Cold War

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN Major takes the chair today at an extraordinary summit meeting in New York of the United Nations Security Council — the first time the leaders of the world's leading security grouping have ever met together since the founding of the UN.

Building on the new dynamism shown by the UN a year ago in its confrontation with Iraq, they are aiming to strengthen the world body's ability to make and keep peace, take stock with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the secretary-general, of the challenges facing the world, and see how hopes for a "new world order" can become reality.

The one-day summit flows from a British initiative launched before Christmas. It was timed to coincide with Britain's presidency of the council and the inauguration in office of Dr Boutros Ghali. By inviting President Yeltsin, Britain also hoped to set the seal on the end of the Cold War, Russia's assumption of the Soviet seat on the security council, and international agreement on the control of Soviet nuclear weapons and non-proliferation.

So far there has been little fanfare for what could prove a turning point in the renaissance of the UN. That is because Britain, eager to secure the participation of all 15 security council members, was careful not to trumpet the proposal until it was sure of their attendance. In the event, the heads of all the member governments are coming except Hungary and Zimbabwe, which have decided to be represented by their foreign ministers.

The thrust of the proposed declaration will be on reinforcing existing arrangements for collective security. Dr Boutros Ghali will be asked to prepare a report, to be submitted by the middle of the year, on how money can be secured for peacekeeping and preventative diplomacy, how greater use can be made of his office to resolve conflicts, and how the UN role in international peace-making can be expanded.

A large section of the declaration deals with disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. All five permanent members of the council recognise that the break-up of the Soviet Union poses particular dangers of

technology leakage and emigration of scientists. Council members want to see unified control of the Soviet nuclear arsenal, and are seeking reassurances from Mr Yeltsin.

The declaration is likely also to take note of the sweeping defence cuts proposed by President Bush and Mr Yeltsin, which take arms reductions much further than the formal agreements negotiated by Washington and Moscow.

The most controversial part of the declaration focuses on human rights and democracy, which Britain and its allies insist are an integral part of international security. The subject is particularly sensitive to China, which still bristles at mention of anything that could be used as condemnation of its record since the 1989 shootings in Tiananmen Square. China submitted several amendments deleting reference to the issue. Britain, hoping for consensus, has tried to finesse the wording so as to be acceptable to Peking.

Non-aligned countries wanted greater emphasis on development, an issue not really covered in the draft. India, which has not signed the non-proliferation treaty, was worried by the draft's advocacy of it.

Rather than an open debate which could exacerbate underlying tensions and differences, Britain has proposed a formal session in which each delegation leader will speak for 15 minutes. Much of the informal work will be conducted in the margins of the meeting, with Mr Bush, Mr Major and other leaders holding bilateral meetings with Li Peng, the Chinese leader, P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister, and others. Mr Bush was due to see Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, yesterday evening and will meet almost all the other leaders today.

The summit is not intended to commit the UN to any specific new course of action, but rather to reinforce its growing authority and agree common guidelines for dealing with future conflicts.

London accord, page 1
Leading article, page 15



A word in your ear: John Major being briefed during his press conference with President Yeltsin of Russia in Downing Street yesterday. The prime minister will chair today's summit meeting of the United Nations Security Council in New York, attended by Mr Yeltsin, which aims to develop the UN's peacekeeping role

Rutskoi turns on leader

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

IN A fresh outburst of nationalist rhetoric, Aleksandr Rutskoi, Russia's vice-president, has pledged to resist the disintegration of his republic and implicitly backed territorial claims against Ukraine.

Mr Rutskoi's comments, which appeared almost calculated to discomfort President Yeltsin as he seeks to establish his international credibility in visits to Britain and the United States, said the Russian Federation was in danger of following the

Soviet Union down the path of political collapse. "One would have to be utterly naive to imagine that the destruction of the Soviet Union will not prompt a similar chain reaction within Russia."

Without directly attacking Mr Yeltsin, he accused the government of being "ready to make any concession in the name of their social and economic experiments". The people would not stand for any "automatic identification" of the present borders of the republic with the historical borders of Russia.

Credit to Russia, page 19

West fears Soviet scientists will sell weapons expertise

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AMONG the first victims of arms cuts in the former Soviet Union will be the huge and largely hidden army of scientists and engineers who work on defence-related projects.

According to the CIA, the nine core ministries that controlled defence procurement were in charge of 450 research organisations, including about 50 design offices. About half the research done in physical sciences and engineering in the institutes of the Academy of Sciences was also supported by the military. At a rough guess, half a million scientists were wholly or partially dependent on defence funding in the former Soviet Union.

Of these, only a small fraction know enough to pose a threat in the dissemination of information needed to create nuclear weapons or ballistic missiles. The danger is, however, causing concern in the West. One British expert says that two scientists had already approached him asking where they might be able to sell quantities of lithium-6, used in thermonuclear weapons. Scientists at the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy have reported approaches from Third World countries offering large salaries for help in nuclear know-how. The evidence that

serious efforts are being made to recruit former Soviet scientists is anecdotal, and may be designed to extract money from the West. Whether genuine or not, it appears to be working. Western politicians have been falling over themselves to devise ways of preventing Soviet expertise from leaking out to Libya, Iran, Pakistan, or other would-be nuclear powers.

Yesterday's London discussions with the Russians provided no clear indication of how this is to be done, merely reaffirming both sides' commitment to the non-proliferation treaty and reaching an

agreement that the potential for co-operation in the destruction and safe disposal of surplus weapons in Russia should be examined. More details may emerge from the United Nations in New York, which President Yeltsin will attend today.

In the former Soviet Union, a conversion programme designed to use weapons laboratories for peaceful purposes has begun, but according to Terry Garrett, assistant secretary for international affairs at the Royal Society, it has had limited success so far. Contacts between the defence laboratories and the civilian

sector have always been slight, he says. Reorganisation of Soviet laboratories is hampered by the economic situation and the rigid structure upon which Soviet science was based. The old Stalinist model of science involved many research centres, some with as many as 4,000 to 5,000 workers, controlled by autocratic directors whose word was law. The Academy of Sciences alone ran 522 such institutes in the natural sciences, 285 of them in Russia itself, and another 224 institutes in social sciences, history, economics and other subjects.

Much of the science is of poor quality. Most university laboratories, except for those in Moscow, Kiev, St Petersburg and a few other prominent universities, are poorly funded and equipped. Mr Garrett said that the laboratories attached to the Soviet ministries were mostly "very poor". Since both the health and agriculture ministries, which provided funds for many of these, have now collapsed, it is not clear what will happen to scientists who worked in them.

Where it was good, however, Soviet science was very good. Mathematics, physics and chemistry are regarded as particular strengths, with specialists in the top class.



Havel: council should do more than debate

Ten new states join CSCE

BY MICHAEL BINYON

SECURITY

TEN former Soviet republics were admitted to the Council on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) yesterday, bringing the total number of member countries to 48.

They were admitted in a simple joint ceremony in Prague, where the foreign ministers of the council began a two-day meeting to discuss ways of strengthening the organisation. Russia, as the successor state of the Soviet Union, is already a member.

Although some officials complained that the central Asian states formerly belonging to the Soviet Union are not European, the ministers agreed it would be absurd to insist on a geographical limitation as the United States and Canada are members. Georgia has not applied and is unlikely to be considered until it has a functioning democratic government.

Croatia and Slovenia also applied to join the council, but were turned down. Ministers decided to accord them only observer status to avoid a confrontation with Yugoslavia, which is still a member.

Opening the meeting, President Havel of Czechoslovakia said Europe was facing, for the third time this century, the task of building a structure that would rule out another war, hot or cold. The council should not be a mere debating club, but should take powers to direct peacekeeping forces and punish members who failed to abide by their commitments.

Drinks slur is denied

New York: President Yeltsin, in an interview to be broadcast today, disputes rumours that he drinks to excess. He also denies media reports that nuclear scientists of the former Soviet Union are working in Libya.

In the ABC interview, Mr Yeltsin says that he does not talk about political matters with his wife, Naina, in contrast to Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president who openly sought the advice of his wife, Raisa. "Well, in our family I am the boss," Mr Yeltsin declares. He adds: "Of course, my wife has a view of her own, and she is free to express it."

Denying rumours of excessive drinking, he says that he exercises daily, and that athletics and alcohol are incompatible. However, he admits: "I am not an ascetic." (AP)

French stand

Moscow: President Mitterrand, on a visit here, said France would join the nuclear disarmament process as soon as America and the former Soviet Union began to destroy their strategic nuclear arsenals, bringing them closer to French levels. (AFP)

Water curbs

Moscow: Strict water rationing has been introduced in the Russian port of Vladivostok where a dry summer and autumn left city reservoirs almost empty, Tass said. Only one of the city's three reservoirs was reported to have water. (AP)

On the move

Bonn: Half a million ethnic Germans, about a fifth of all those in the former Soviet Union, want to move to Germany, which they are entitled to do under the constitution. Bonn said: "The door remains legally and politically open." (Reuters)

Winter's tale

Moscow: About 30 people, according to Moscow radio, saw two "abominable snowmen" breaking into a military barracks in the northern Russian town of Kargopol and later found tufts of fur on the barbed-wire perimeter fence. (Reuters)

Tea and empathy warm Naina to role of first lady

A NERVOUS grimace was transformed into a serene smile yesterday as Naina Yosifovna Yeltsin discovered that holding centre stage as first lady of a big power was not so bad after all.

The morning had not begun well for the Russian president's wife. She emerged from her Zil limousine outside Number 10 looking as though she was about to undergo a painful session with the dentist. While Raisa Gorbachev, the former Soviet president's wife, would have stolen the show, Mrs Yeltsin seemed to be suffering from stagefright.

President Yeltsin, who had travelled ahead in a separate Zil, was already on the doorstep meeting the

It took a cup of tea with Norma Major for the Russian president's wife to overcome her feelings of stagefright. Bill Frost reports

Majors. Joining them on the red carpet, Mrs Yeltsin comfortably took her place for the group photograph. "How nice to see you," said Mr Major reassuringly. Mrs Yeltsin, who speaks no English, still looked anxious.

The president's wife, known to have felt distinctly uncomfortable during her few previous appearances in public as the Russian leader's wife, had barely composed herself for the cameras when Mr Yeltsin

spun round and grabbed her by the shoulders. She tottered as he rather roughly removed her grey coat and patterned scarf. Mrs Yeltsin looked more anxious than ever.

But as the men talked missiles and medium-term export credits, the president's wife underwent a transformation while taking tea with Norma Major. Arriving at Westminster Abbey with her hostess, Mrs Yeltsin's frown had been re-



placed by the hint of a grin. Through an interpreter, she talked animatedly with the Very Rev Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster. "Mrs

Yeltsin said more and more churches were being reopened in Russia. She was very impressed with the abbey and only wished she could have stayed longer. She was particularly interested in seeing the tomb of Charles Dickens in Poets' Corner," said the dean. As she left the abbey the grin changed to a broad smile. "She is not Raisa — too stout, although the unusual red hair colour is similar."

Mrs Yeltsin, a distinguished construction engineer before becoming the first lady, was grinning broadly by the time her cavalcade reached Tower Bridge. "This is absolutely unique. It is wonderful. As an engineer I can really ap-

preciate it," she said. Anxiety forgotten and the Raisa benchmark banished, the president's wife chatted with Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London. "She is a very charming, friendly lady," he said afterwards.

The night before the Yeltsins' arrival in London not even the Russian embassy was sure of the first lady's name, but by last night she had clearly made her mark.

When asked recently what he would do if the Gorbachevs knocked on the door of the family flat in Moscow, Mr Yeltsin said bluntly: "I would ask them in and the women would go into the kitchen while we discussed matters in the living room."

AROUND THE LOBBY
Social fund gets £6.2m

Inter hope

10 days find

State armed

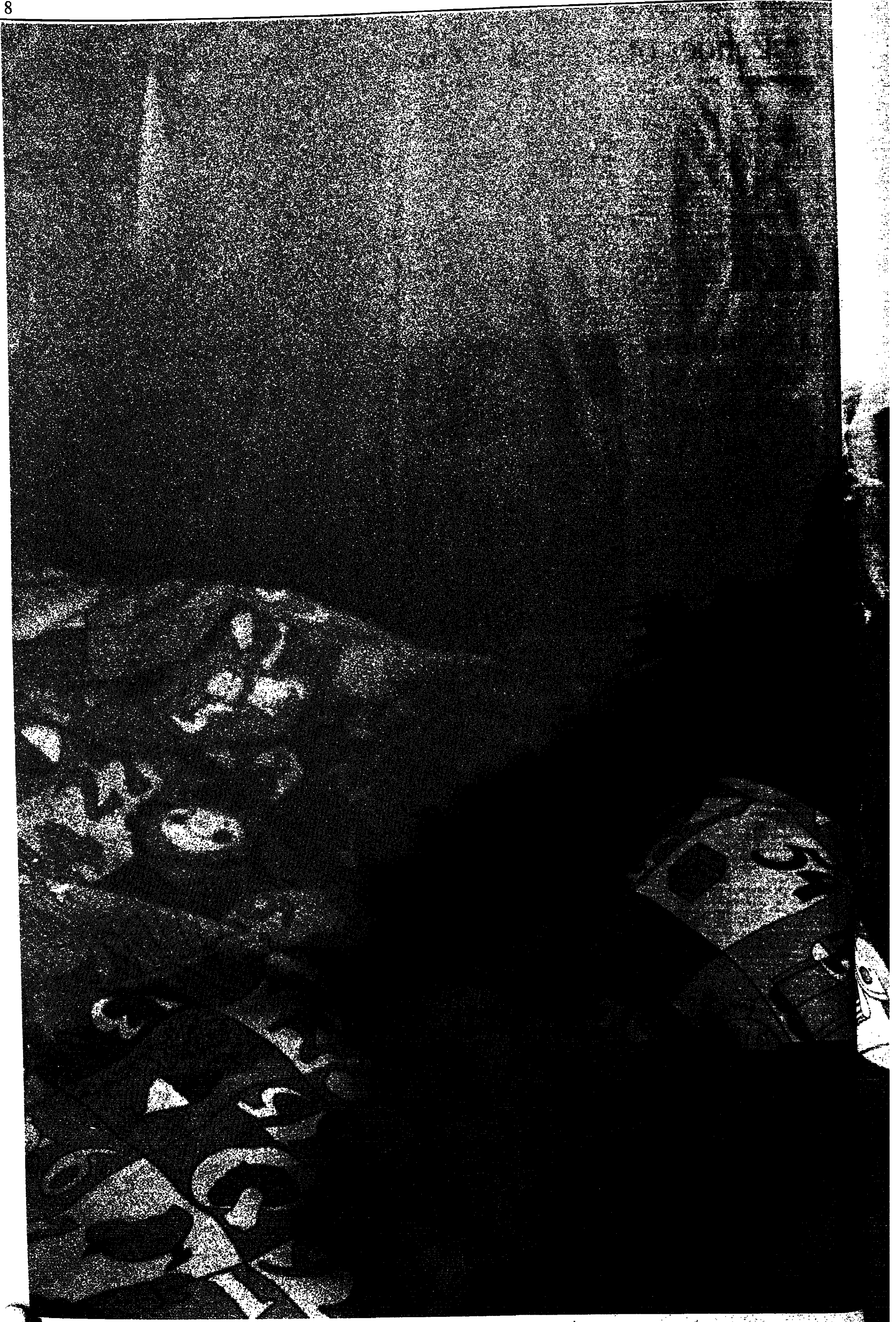
Team

tries to level cigarette prices

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YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH A VOLVO.

Saudis weigh up military mission

Somalia aid teams seek protection

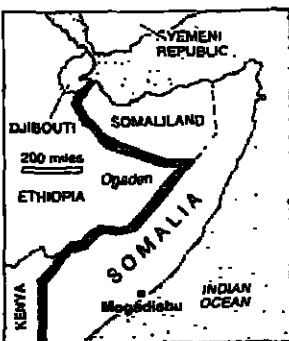
FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

MILITARY experts in Saudi Arabia are studying a plan for armed intervention in the Somali civil war to protect aid workers providing food to millions of people facing starvation in the country.

At least 20,000 people have died in the capital, Mogadishu, since fighting broke out in November. Aid agencies, still operating in the country, say that the whole of Somalia faces a "holocaust" if efforts to provide relief continue to be disrupted by the warring sides and armed bandits.

The plan being studied by the Saudis was presented to King Fahd in December after a Belgian Red Cross worker and his Somali aide were murdered. The agencies say that, since then, about 40 Somali aid workers have been killed, as well as a UN doctor.

The proposal was drawn up



by the Austrian charity, SOS-Kindergarten International, after consultation with other aid agencies and presented to seven governments, the UN and the European Community at a meeting here this week. It calls for troops to be sent to Somalia to secure ports, key roads, and provide 24-hour protection for aid workers. Hundreds of thousands of

people, who fled the fighting are now living in refugee camps on the outskirts of Mogadishu. An estimated 2.5 million others are facing famine in the hinterland. The SOS plan says that a "humanitarian force" should be sent to secure "neutral zones" for women and children.

The Ethiopian and Eritrean governments are also anxious to see peace return to Somalia. Hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees have fled to camps in Ethiopia and Somalia bandits have destabilised the east of the country.

Supporters of the plan hope that Riyadh will pay the bill for the humanitarian force, although it will be a multinational undertaking. Werner Handl, the secretary-general of SOS, said yesterday that if the scheme works, such forces could be deployed in other blighted areas such as Liberia and southern Ethiopia.

"This force would be strictly humanitarian and have no part to play in the internal politics of Somalia. It is essential that if the plan is to work we get a joint commitment from all interested agencies, governments, and both sides of the conflict in Mogadishu," Mr Handl said.

However, he admitted that the presence of foreign troops in Somalia and an improvement in relief operations, which presently — with the exception of limited medical aid — are at a standstill, would have an impact on the domestic political scene.

Mogadishu has been virtually destroyed since the fighting broke out between supporters of General Muhammad Farah Aidid and President Ali Mahdi Muhammad. The battle originally between factions within the Hawiye clan, has now spread to include other family groups, and few believe that a solution can be found to the conflict without outside help.

Initial diplomatic reaction to the plan has been cautious. Although Western envoys in Nairobi yesterday welcomed the concept, they said that it would be difficult to persuade any government to risk the lives of their soldiers in the Somali civil war.



Sporting habit: Sister John Paul, who teaches 14-year-olds at Aquinas school in Woodbridge, Virginia, winding up to throw a touchdown pass to a wide receiver during a gridiron football practice

Far right offers new vision of apartheid

FROM GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

SHOULD white South Africans veto power-sharing with the black majority, the Conservative party is ready to present an alternative plan.

The far-right option is a commonwealth of 11 tribal nations, in which Afrikaners, Zulus, Tsvanas and others would each be given large tracts of land in which to preserve their racial purity.

In the new apartheid, the Afrikaners would reserve the biggest slice for themselves, extending from the eastern Cape, through the Orange Free State, to the northern Transvaal. However, the Zulus would be given almost all of Natal, and Coloureds could do what they liked with the western Cape and Cape Town.

For people who did not wish to be associated with any of the tribal states, Johannesburg and its industrial belt, including the gold mines, would be set aside for them to negotiate a multiracial constitution as they saw fit.

Zach de Beer, the leader of the liberal Democratic party, dismissed the plan out of hand. "The Nationalists tried apartheid and it was a total, abject failure. It didn't work then, and it won't work now." But he is wary of the power of the right, which commands roughly half the support of the white electorate.

Oblivious to scorn, the Conservatives say that they have begun discussing possible borders with Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Zulu leader, and intend consulting the Tsvanas soon.

A blueprint for the proposed commonwealth was submitted to the party executive in a 78-page report from a drafting committee in November, and a final report is expected next month. It is understood that most of the executive supports the recommendations, with the exception of one or two members of parliament whose constituencies would be affected by the partition.

Bridge partner presses her suit

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRIDGE has never been seen as a contact sport, but a trial now under way in New York could change the card game's sedate image.

Judi Radin, a top-class player, has gone on trial in Manhattan criminal court charged with assaulting her long-standing bridge partner and lesbian lover. She faces up to a year in jail if convicted of an assault stemming from a dispute with Kathie Wei, her companion, last year in the flat they shared in Manhattan's Upper East Side. A verdict is expected this week. The couple's professional partnership has dominated

the world of women's contract bridge for the past two decades. Together they have won world championships and millions of dollars in prize money.

The two teamed up when Mrs Wei's late husband, C.C. Wei, a Chinese-born shipping magnate and bridge aficionado, spotted Mrs Radin, who had won renown in the bridge world while playing for Columbia University in New York. The partnership blossomed and the two became stars. In 1978, they won the world pairs championship and have several times won world women's team titles.

When Mr Wei died four years ago, Mrs Radin, now aged 37, divorced her husband and moved in with Mrs Wei, who is 24 years her senior. The two signed a "living contract" which guaranteed Mrs Radin specific fees and bonuses for continuing their professional relationship and promised a quarter of Mrs Wei's multimillion-dollar estate in her will.

Their relationship ended in violence during a quarrel over money at their flat in East 64th Street on February 20 last year. In court papers, Mrs Wei says she was walking out of the bathroom when Mrs Radin began haranguing her about money. Each accused the other of hitting her with a 2lb Chinese metal exercise ball. The charges against Mrs Wei, who was bruised in the incident, were dropped, leaving Mrs Radin to stand trial.

Mrs Radin has filed a \$6 million (£3.3 million) lawsuit, in which she claims that her bridge-playing contract with the Chinese-born heiress has been breached.

Sex claims boost Clinton campaign

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WHEN a frontrunner stumbles, in theory those trailing catch him up. The race for the Democratic presidential nomination is defying that simple logic. Far from helping Bill Clinton's rivals, the commotion over his alleged adultery has left them struggling for survival. His troubles have attracted reporters and television crews like iron filings to a magnet, leaving his little-known temperamental campaigning in a vacuum.

The Arkansas governor has become a household name, but his rivals have been sliding back into obscurity. His fundraising may have benefited while theirs has stagnated. His poll ratings have increased marginally while theirs have slumped or slipped. "This reminds me of the Cuomo-watch," Paul Tsongas said, referring to the endless dithering of the New York governor that overshadowed the declared candidates' campaigns in the autumn. Chris Sproul, the Democratic chairman in New Hampshire, where the nation's first primary is less

than three weeks away, said: "It has diverted attention from everyone's campaign." John White, one of Mr Sproul's predecessors, said all the candidates were "really disadvantaged by this trash."

Nor could the declared candidates be sure of benefiting in the increasingly unlikely event that Mr Clinton is forced to abandon his campaign. Against that eventual, aides to big-name Democrats, including Richard Gephardt, the House leader, and Senators Al Gore and Lloyd Bentsen, have been discreetly checking registration deadlines for later primaries.

This curious situation helps to explain why the tapes of Mr Clinton's conversations with Jennifer Flowers, his alleged lover, have spawned a second dispute fast gaining prominence in New York, which has the most conventional delegates after California. Unable to engage Mr Clinton on political issues, unable to attack him on the basis of Ms Flowers's unproven allegations, his rivals have seized on his observations in those tapes that Mr Cuomo acted like a mafioso and nobody cared whom Bob Kerrey was "screwing" because he was single.

Mr Kerrey, displaying a new-found aggression, called the remark about himself "unnecessarily insulting" and said Mr Clinton's anti-Italian sentiments raised serious doubts about his character. Mr Cuomo, ideologically and personally hostile to Mr Clinton, fanned the flames by initially refusing to accept Mr Clinton's apology.

No place for a lady, L & T section, page 4



Cuomo: attacked in Clinton tapes

Korea signs nuclear accord

NORTH Korea yielded to international pressure yesterday and signed an agreement opening its nuclear facilities to international inspection (David Watts writes).

Pyeongyang's accession to the treaty was welcomed by South Korea, but a diplomat said much would depend on which site or sites were opened to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna once the pact is ratified by President Kim Il Sung of North Korea.

Experts in South Korea and America believe that Pyongyang could have a crude nuclear device ready next year, but the northers are expected to allow inspection of facilities in Juche. Officials in Vienna said the nuclear fuel plant being used to obtain weapons-grade plutonium at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, would be visited.

Police defiant

Algiers: Police vowed to meet force with force after Wednesday's street violence, fuelling speculation that today's prayers could spark further clashes between fundamentalists who support the Islamic Salvation Front and the security forces. (Reuters)

Army blamed

Colombo: A Sri Lankan presidential commission investigating the killing of 67 civilians after a landmine explosion by Tamil guerrillas in the island's Eastern Province last year said the armed forces were responsible for the deaths.

Exile returns

Phnom Penh: Son Sen, the Khmer Rouge defence chief, returned to the Cambodian capital for the first time since November when a mob ransacked his villa and drove him back into exile. He was expected to meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk. (Reuters)

Arms embargo

Islamabad: Pakistan has stopped weapons supplies to the Muslim rebels waging war in Afghanistan, the armed forces said. The announcement came after Pakistan's decision to call on the rebels to negotiate with the Kabul government. (AP)

Burma shuffle

Rangoon: The Burmese military junta, which seized power in 1988, has named Ohn Gyiaw, a civilian, as foreign minister in a minor cabinet reshuffle. He was appointed acting minister last year. Three more officers joined the junta. (Reuters)

Children shot

Washington: Cuban security forces wounded two children when they shot at 13 people attempting to defect to the US Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, according to the State Department. It said Cuba had mined the area adjoining the base. (Reuters)

Shuttle lands

Edwards Air Force Base: The Discovery shuttle brought its seven-man international crew home, making a perfect landing in the Californian Mojave desert. The crew conducted 55 experiments during their eight-day space mission. (Reuters)

NOTICE TO HALIFAX CUSTOMERS

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO INTEREST RATES AND THE INTRODUCTION OF CERTAIN ACCOUNT CHARGES FOR INVESTORS WITH EFFECT FROM THE DATES SPECIFIED BELOW:

NEW INTEREST RATES from 6th February 1992	UK RATES				NON-RESIDENT RATES	
	GROSS % p.a.	GROSS C.A.R.* %	NET % p.a.	NET C.A.R.* %	GROSS % p.a.	GROSS C.A.R.* %
90 DAY XTRA £50,000+	10.95	11.25	8.21	8.38	10.05	10.30
Monthly Income Option £50,000+	10.40	11.13	7.95	8.25	9.70	10.14
INSTANT XTRA PLUS £50,000+	10.25	-	7.69	-	9.95	-
PAID-UP SHARE £250+	3.70	3.73	2.78	2.80	3.70	3.73
DEPOSIT £250+	3.50	3.53	2.63	2.65	3.50	3.53
CLOSED ISSUES						
Instant Xtra £10,000+	8.75	-	6.56	-	8.35	-
£5,000+	8.25	-	6.19	-	8.05	-
£2,000+	8.00	-	6.00	-	7.85	-
£500+	7.50	-	5.63	-	7.35	-

SPECIAL RATES FOR INVESTORS UNDER THE AGE OF 21. With effect from 6th February 1992, the Society will increase the rate of interest paid on certain accounts to young savers. For customers recorded as being under the age of 21, interest will be paid either at the appropriate tiered rate of interest or at the rate shown below, whichever is the higher. This new arrangement applies to Paid-Up Share, Deposit, Cardcash, Instant Xtra Plus, 90 Day Xtra, Instant Xtra and Monthly Savings accounts.

	Gross 6.00%	Gross C.A.R.* 6.09%	Net 4.50%	Net C.A.R.* 4.55%
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CHANGE TO TERMS. With effect from 1st February 1992, the terms of all Instant Xtra Plus accounts will be varied to allow the Society to credit interest to these accounts annually on 1st June instead of 31st May.

POINTS TO NOTE. Gross rates do not take account of any deduction for income tax. Interest will be paid gross, i.e. without deduction of tax, to non-taxpaying individuals who satisfactorily complete a registration form to comply with Inland Revenue regulations. Charities who are able to provide the appropriate declaration may also receive gross interest. Copies of these forms are available from any Halifax branch. Net rates are illustrative only and allow for the deduction from the gross rate of income tax at the basic rate (currently 25%). Income tax may be reclaimed where the amount of tax deducted exceeds your liability in tax. The net rates shown have been rounded. The non-resident rates of interest are payable on investments of individuals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK and in respect of whom the Society has received an appropriate declaration. Accounts with balances below £50,000 receive no interest (except in the case of investors, other than Maximum account holders, recorded as being under the age of 21). All interest rates and account charges quoted are variable. *Compounded annual rates (C.A.R.) apply when full interest, which is paid more than once a year, remains in the account. Full terms and conditions together with details of interest rates, when interest is payable and account charges are available from any Halifax branch.

ACCOUNT CHARGES

- With effect from 1st February 1992, a quarterly charge of £2.50 will be debited to all accounts specified in Point 4 which have a balance of less than £50.00 for a total of 30 days or more during any quarter. (The quarters end on 30th April, 31st July, 31st October and 31st January in each year.) The charge will be debited to the account approximately 10 days after the end of the relevant quarter.
- With effect from 1st May 1992, a charge of 60 pence for each cash withdrawal (excluding those from any Halifax Cardcash machine) and a charge of £1.00 for each withdrawal by cheque made at branches and agencies, will be debited immediately on the occasion of each such withdrawal to all accounts specified in Point 4. These charges will be made only if the balance of the account is below £250.00 at the time of the withdrawal.
- No charge will be made for the first two such withdrawals which take place in any calendar month.
- With effect from 1st May 1992, a charge of £4.00 will be made by the Society when a cheque, which has been accepted for the credit of an investor's account, is subsequently returned unpaid. The charge will be debited to the account (except Maximum) on the date that the Society is notified that the cheque has been returned.
- The charges referred to in Points 1 and 2 will apply to all Cardcash, Paid-Up Share, Instant Xtra Plus, Instant Xtra, Deposit, Monthly Savings, Matured Subscription Share and Subscription Share Accounts but will not apply where the customer is recorded as being under the age of 21.

Trinity Road, Halifax



31st January 1992

Money 'spurs Tyson's accuser'

A LUST for money and a bruised ego drove a teenage beauty queen to concoct a tale of rape after a brusque bout of sex in a hotel room with Mike Tyson, the former world heavyweight champion, his lawyer told the court yesterday.

Desiree Washington has a compelling desire for money. Money is a frequent subject of her conversations. Vincent Fuller told the jury at the start of Tyson's trial for rape. "If Tyson is convicted, her lawyer will file a suit and she stands to become a very wealthy woman," Ms Washington invented her tale of rape because she had been devastated when Tyson dismissed her after their perfunctory encounter, Mr Fuller said.

His account of the boxer's "one-night-stand" in Indianapolis last July contrasted sharply with the picture of ravished maidenhood painted by Greg Garrison, the prosecutor. Chatting to the jury in a relaxed, folksy tone, he painted a harrowing tale of brutality in room 606 of the Canterbury hotel after the

The rape allegation against the former boxing champion is driven by cash and ego, his lawyer says. Charles Bremner reports from the Indianapolis court

boxer lured Ms Washington, a contestant in a the Miss Black America contest, to his lair at Zan. "One of the fastest and strongest men in the world grabs this 108lb (eight stone) 18-year-old and spins her round and before she knows, she's on her back... this little girl goes down. With his massive frame he pins her down like a rag doll and pulls her clothes off with one hand," he said. Screaming and struggling, Ms Washington begged Tyson to stop.

Tyson then forced himself onto her, he claimed. "Don't fight me," Tyson was alleged to have snapped. Afterwards, it is claimed he asked her: "Do you love me now?" Tyson, who turned 26 yesterday, listened without visible emotion as Mr Garrison, a flamboyant, free-lance prosecutor hired by

the state of Indiana, described his alleged behaviour in a lurid, melodramatic performance. The boxer faces a maximum of 63 years in prison if convicted on four charges of rape, deviant conduct and confinement. His lawyer, a distinguished Washington attorney who comes over like a grave Perry Mason, made much of Tyson's humble origins in the Brooklyn backstreets and his lack of education.

"He was trained to do only one thing, to defend himself in the battle in the ring," Ms Washington was the opposite, he said. A scholarship-winning high-achiever, she had travelled abroad, trained as a model, and learned how to handle the adult world long before she started her university studies last year in Rhode Island. "She had even met

the vice-president of the United States, Dan Quayle," he said. The mention of Indiana's most prominent son provoked tittering in the courtroom.

Sophisticated and "mature beyond her years," Ms Washington had seized the chance when Tyson visited contestants at the beauty pageant in Indianapolis and had even offered him two photographs of herself in a bathing suit. "This is very interesting. At least I know what I have here," Tyson quipped to his entourage, Mr Fuller said.

After Tyson had invited Ms Washington out in the evening, she spent the rest of the day speculating about the wealth she could make through him. "He's rich," she told a friend, according to Mr Fuller. "Didn't you see what Robin Givens [Tyson's former wife] got out of him? Besides, he's dumb," she was quoted as saying.

The defence also dwelt on Ms Washington's subsequent failure to report the alleged rape for 24 hours and alleged contradictions in her testimony to police.

Serb militants force envoy to confront flaws in UN proposal

FROM TIM JUDAH IN KINJA

THE leaders of the militant Serb enclave of Krajina celebrated into the early hours of the morning after telling Miroslav Goukling, the United Nations envoy, that they would not comply with the UN peace plan for Yugoslavia.

Their message struck home. "More work needs to be done," Mr Goukling commented on Wednesday night after saying he could not recommend the dispatch of a projected 10,000-strong UN peacekeeping force. "All those on whom the success of such an operation would depend need to have accepted it and be ready to co-operate with it when deployed."

Dr Milan Babic, the president of the self-proclaimed breakaway Serb republic of Krajina in Croatia's territory, pointed out to Mr Goukling that none of the parties to the peace plan, negotiated by Cyrus Vance, the UN special envoy, had ever consulted the people who run the areas where the force is to be deployed. He also told him that he and his colleagues would want any force to be deployed along the frontline, now dubbed "our border", and not "spotted" across their territory.

Krajina's leaders also refuse to countenance the disarming of their men and the withdrawal of the Yugoslav army. If the same conditions are not applied to the Croats, they point to the fact that President Tudjman of Croatia has vowed that if the UN

does not help it to retrieve its lost territories, Zagreb would resume the war.

"Babic is playing a high-risk game," commented one UN official. "But he's doing it with some panache." Dr Babic and his people are increasingly isolated and Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, has denounced Dr Babic as an obstacle to peace.

It is not an argument that impresses Krajina, where Dr Babic's popularity is high. Mr Milosevic, finding it politically expedient to talk peace rather than nationalism, has changed his tune but has not broken Krajina's spirit. Cut off from its economic hinterland on the Adriatic coast, Krajina is totally dependent on Serbia for oil and food, but Mr Milosevic has not seen fit to tighten the economic screws.

The people of Krajina are depressed and subdued but they are not yet beaten. "Don't give us empty talk tell us what we are going to do," shouted an angry woman at a meeting of management and workers at the Krijanka clothes factory this week. For four months 800 Krijanka workers, mostly women, have had no work and no pay. Their factory exported the bulk of its produce to Germany, a market that has vanished with the war.

No one knows whether a UN peacekeeping force will come, or if Yugoslavia still exists; the Republic of Serbian Krajina is recognised by no one. There are also ten-

sions between the Yugoslav army and local authorities. Milan Martić, the Krijanka police chief, now in charge of a formidable private army, has only minimal contact with the civil authorities. "He wanted to launch a police coup d'état," said Lazar Macura, the Krajina minister of information.

Confusion reigns, but most people are sure of one thing. They will never live in Croatia again, whatever the United Nations or the European Community say.

● **Belgrade:** In an apparent effort to prevent social unrest, the Serbian government has frozen the prices of several staples, including bread, milk, cooking oil and sugar. Faced with increasing public discontent over the handling of politics and the economy, it has also banned a planned increase in the prices of fuel and electricity and reduced postal service prices 19 per cent, according to the Tanjug news agency. (AP)



Silk cuts: Givenchy models presenting a printed shirtdress in violet with kick pleats and a long strapless evening dress with gold embroidered bustier on the final day of the Paris haute couture show yesterday



Shamir begins to woo voters

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S ruling Likud Party began electioneering in earnest yesterday when Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and three senior cabinet members promised that only their brand of right-wing policies could give the country peace and security.

The day of speechmaking coincided with the opposition Labour party's decision to approve June 23 as the election date. Opinion polls published by the Smith Research Institute put Likud ahead with 32 per cent and Labour on 27 per cent.

Mr Shamir criticised the present conduct of the Arab parties in the Middle East peace talks, but vowed to continue the process.

Speaking on his return from the Moscow peace talks, David Levy, the foreign minister, said he was hopeful that Israel's first direct talks with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states would lead eventually to regional co-operation on the economy, the environment and arms control.

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Italy opts for early elections

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

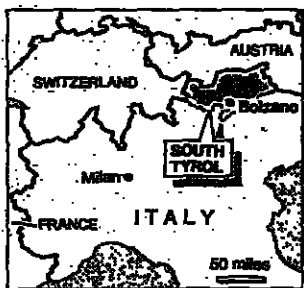
GIULIO Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, yesterday announced the end of Italy's 49th postwar government, opening the way for early elections on April 5.

The election campaign is expected to be the most bitterly fought since the Communist-Christian Democrat showdown of 1953 and could lead to radical institutional reforms and, possibly, a second republic to replace the 1948 constitution.

The official reason given for holding general elections six months early is that the government has achieved what it had set out to do. It is widely recognised, however, that Signor Andreotti's government is paralysed by tensions within the four-party coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats and Liberals.

Italy now appears to be split. On the one hand an entrenched political establishment claims the right to make constitutional changes, on the other a growing number of reformist Italians, with no faith in the establishment's capacity to reform itself, wants concrete reforms immediately. The election could fuse the reformist movements into a solid front, but could also splinter Italy's political forces even further.

President Cossiga has rejected his figurehead role and attacked inefficiency and corruption in the system.



Rome gives Tyroleans autonomy

FROM REUTER IN ROME

ITALY, seeking an end to its long-running dispute with Austria over the Alto Adige area, known to its German-speaking majority as South Tyrol, completed an autonomy package yesterday for the region on its northern border.

In Rome's eyes, this clears the way for Austria to withdraw a complaint it made to the UN against Italy over treatment of the German-speakers in 1960, at the height of unrest by South Tyrolean nationalists against Italian rule. Italy was given the area in 1919.

But Hartman Galsner, leader of the Südtiroler Volkspartei, which represents the German-speakers, said that while welcoming yesterday's measures, he could not recommend that Austria declare the issue closed internationally. He wants it subject to arbitration so that if Italy breaks the accord, complaints can be made via Austria to the International Court of Justice. Italy sees the deal as an internal matter.

German navy seizes arms cargo ship

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

A GERMAN cargo ship, with 16 battle tanks for Syria on board, is being escorted home by a frigate after being intercepted in the Mediterranean just off Gibraltar.

The order to track down the ship was issued from the chancellery in Bonn after intelligence reports that the vessel was carrying sophisticated weapons to the Middle East. The chancellery moved swiftly because the government is sensitive to worldwide criticism that it has failed in the past to stop the export of arms and dangerous technology to trouble spots.

Late last year, intelligence agents discovered that the Czechoslovak army was selling Soviet-designed T-72 tanks to Damascus for hard currency. On January 12, the German-registered Godewind arrived in the Polish port of Szczecin. Three days later the ship put into Hamburg to collect an excavator

and on January 16 sailed for the Mediterranean. The Bonn chancellery learnt that 16 of the Czechoslovak tanks bought by Syria had been loaded while the freighter was in Szczecin.

Since the owners had not obtained the required permit, a unit was set up to track down the vessel. A message ordering the captain to turn back was relayed to the vessel and a German naval unit was put on alert.

On Wednesday, the Godewind appeared off Sicily, where high seas prevented her from entering port to deliver the excavator. It then headed out to sea again and it was not until yesterday evening that the ship was eventually located by a helicopter from the Mölders, the flagship of the naval unit. A frigate was deployed to escort the Godewind back to Germany, where an investigation has been opened.

Korea signs nuclear accord

Police defiant

Army blamed

File returns

Arms embargo

Surma shuffles

Children shot

Shuttle lands

accuser

In liquidn: 60s est agt which told whole trth and nthg bt trth to grt amusement of all

Farewell, then, to the babbling Brooks

Roy Brooks, the small firm of Kensington estate agents that became famous a generation ago for its insanely honest property advertisements, has gone into liquidation after 40 years, Philip Howard writes

SO THE estate agency that for a while gave the abhorred trade a good name has finally gone out of business. "Clapped-out old estate agent, for those who can endure slightly sordid and snobbish innuendoes for the sake of a fashionable advertisement, its inspiration 20 years dead, has gone into liquidation."

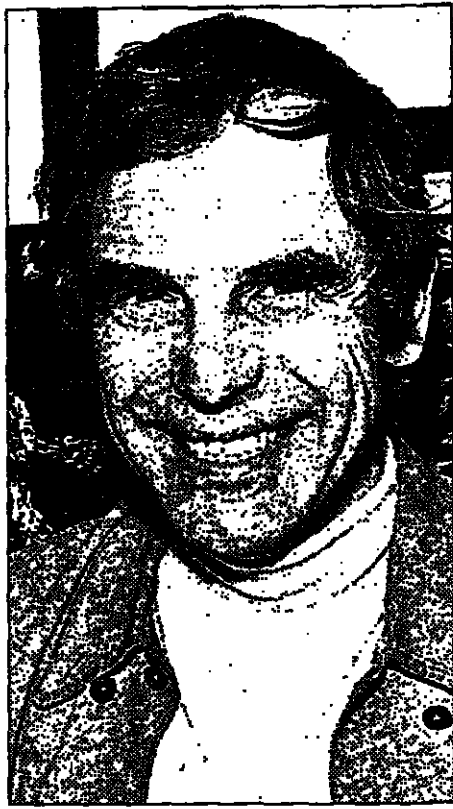
Roy Brooks was a cult of the late fifties and sixties, like Carnaby Street and kipperies. He flogged his properties in Chelsea and Pimlico, and the other seedy old villages on the south-western fringe of central London (but definitely north of the river), by being appallingly candid about them. "Oblique view across Thames for those who enjoy looking at Battersea Power Station." "So-called garden with possibilities — best solved by saturation bombing."

"Back bedroom suitable only for dwarf or plaid child" attracted 30 prospective buyers. His property ads for uncles, res. were considered wildly unprofessional by the trade. But they became required reading for millions in the posh Sunday papers (there were only two then),

even before the Sixties children on their Sunday morning long lie-in turned to the colour mags. The most widely read property advertisements since the Great Fire of London contained the only truth that could be relied on in the newspapers. They made a generation laugh, and found the young homes near the centre of London that they could afford.

It was a simple trick, appealing to transparent depths in the English character. As Brooks said: "People will always be silly and snobby." But there was more to it than that. The brutal truth made a refreshing change from the absurd and pompous and dishonest hype of the normal jargon of property ads. Brooks was sending up British establishment hypocrisy long before *That Was The Week That Was* and *Private Eye* jumped onto the zeitgeist of the age.

This basis for bluff Yorkshire "humour" does not always work. Gerald Ratner came unstuck with the mode last year. Thersites was soundly thumped for telling the truth that everybody knew, but it was bad form to say, about the Greek generals



Signs of the times: Roy Brooks and his adverts in a charity booklet illustrated by Diana Durrant

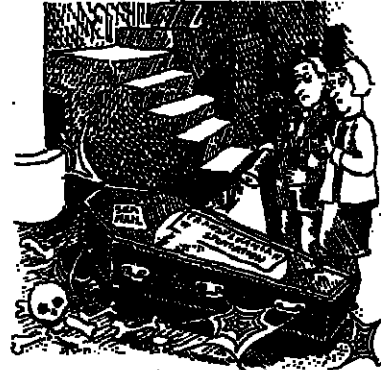
at Troy. The boy who blurted out the truth about the emperor's new clothes was spanked and sent to bed without his supper by his horrified mother. It worked for Brooks, who sold a lot of property by insulting it. He died in 1971, but the

firm of Roy Brooks continued trading in his name, though it quietly dropped his famous knocking ads. The world has moved on. Brooks's territory of SW3 has become impossibly grand and expensive. These days the coming districts that are being gent-

rified are farther out, places such as Tooting and Muswell Hill. The young of the Sixties are now middle-aged, and think of their property as a serious investment rather than a temporary roof over their heads, certainly not a subject for knocking jokes.

DESPERATE ENGLISH-MAN & FRENCH GIRL WOULD CONSIDER ANYTHING SORDID — they missed house we sold in Ladbroke Rd. 3 months ago. FULHAM or similar. It really is urgent, please respond.

January, 1967



DERELICT DOSS HOUSE FASHIONABLE PIMLICO (will now only sell to gentle-people for single-fmly) 3rd Flr: 3 Bedrooms. 2nd Flr: 1 big & 1 small dble Bedrm. 1st Flr: huge 'L' draw rm over 30ft looking behind old newspapers, quite a charming early 19th Cent chimney. Rm at rear wld make bath-dress rm. 2nd Flr: 2 rms thrown into one abt 30ft. Rear rm (grand flr kit) Basement - Horrible (3 rms - all right, I suppose, if tarted up) Back yard with patch of earth & an outside lav which put the skins firmly in their place on a cold wet night. Dirt cheap at £12,995. Bring your own torch.

November, 1969



Estate agents tend to be the archetypal grey mercenaries on the make of the Eighties, and do not make jokes about property. Nor do they have the facetiousness and literary allusiveness of the inventor of the anarchic ad form. When Brooks died, they threw away

Jason follows the law

Screen wideboy David Jason, the star of *Only Fools and Horses* and *The Darling Buds of May*, has spent a day visiting police at his local station at Aylesbury to see how the real police operate before tackling his new role. He is to play Detective Chief Inspector Frost in a Yorkshire TV series, *A Touch of Frost*. Jason, who lives in Wendover, Bucks, shadowed a senior officer for a day.

Japanese film director Akira Kurosawa, renowned for heavyweight dramas such as *Seven Samurai* and *Rashomon*, has said his new film would be *brutal*. He chose *Eyeshield 24*, a university professor and writer, who died in 1971 at the age of 32, as the subject of his 30th film, called *Madadayo* (No, not yet).

China's reformist Vice-Premier Zhu Rongji, who for three years was mayor of Shanghai, will visit Australia and New Zealand next month, the most senior Chinese visitor since Peking's 1989 massacre of demonstrators in Tiananmen Square. Zhu has a reputation as a no-nonsense administrator committed to expanded business dealings with the West.

President Walesa of Poland was stricken with a respiratory illness during a holiday and may be unable to attend next week's session of the Council of Europe at Strasbourg. Mr Walesa, 55, was spending a week with his family in Solina, south-east Poland.

Prosecutors have dropped an assault charge against Lord White of Hull, aged 68, accused of hitting his girlfriend after she failed to prepare his "vitamin potion." Victoria Tucker complained to police at Aspen, Colorado on December 23 that he struck her several times in the neck, back and arm. She later said she had been injured skiing.

A trust set up in memory of David Penhaligon, the former Liberal MP, has been awarded £5,000 by a Brussels-based charity group to help to develop computers as teaching aids for children with special needs. Mr Penhaligon, the member for Truro, Cornwall, died in a car crash near his home in 1986 and the grant was awarded by *Femmes d'Europe*, a charity run by women who live and work in Brussels.

Mummies to have a camel guard

Cairo: Egypt plans to set up a mobile strike force using camels, horses, jeeps and motor cycles to fight theft of antiquities from remote archaeological sites. The force will be hundreds strong and will aim to stem the flow of treasures abroad.

Culture Minister Farouk Hosni said the force would be trained with help from archaeologists. (Reuters)

Smoking trip

Portsmouth: Smokers working for a ferry company are being sent to a hypnotist in an attempt to beat their addiction. Bosses at Wightlink, which serves Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, have paid for some of their workers to attend a city clinic for hypnotherapy and acupuncture.

Firms clean up

Peking: China has fined a Hong Kong firm and five other companies for making fake bars of Lux toilet soap. (Reuters)

New Kids accused of being the wrong kids

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE millions of teenyboppers known as "blockheads" who worship the New Kids on the Block band may have been raving about the wrong singers.

The former music director and producer of the clean-cut Boston pop quintet claims that they do no more than a fifth of the singing on their albums and on tour. But New Kids, who were the world's best paid entertainers in 1990-91 with earnings of \$115 million (£63.5 million) adamantly deny the charge of what is called "lip-synching".

"That is their voices on the album, and their voices when they go on tour," Bob Woolf, the group's business manager, said. "When you have been as successful as they have become, you are always

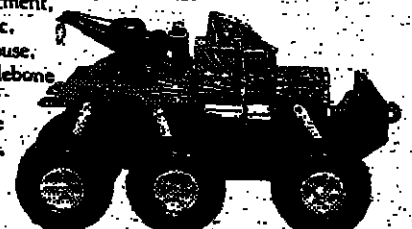
prey to these accusations." Greg McPherson, a music professor at the University of Massachusetts who was dismissed by the group after producing their records for two years, made the allegations as he sued the New Kids for breach of contract. Mr McPherson says that he should have received 2 per cent of about \$20 million in gross revenue from the group's *Hanging Tough* concert video because he was not paid for producing soundtracks for the video and advertisements for it. In interviews independent of the lawsuit, Mr McPherson has claimed that most of the New Kids' singing is done by Maurice Starr and his brother, Michael Johnson. Starr, who founded the group, denies the charges.

PRODUCT RECALL

Woolworths has learned of a fault with one of its battery operated toys - A Triple Dare Monster Truck - which could lead to the toy overheating.

As a precautionary measure, anyone who has purchased one of these toys should return it to the nearest Woolworths store, where a full refund will be given.

The toy has TRIPLE DARE MONSTER TRUCK and an American flag printed on the top of the truck and the words TRIPLE DARE MONSTER TRUCK printed on each side of it. Any customers unable to return the product to a Woolworths store should return it by parcel post to: Customer Service Department, Woolworths plc, Woolworth House, 242-246 Marylebone Road, London: NW1 6JL. The purchase price, postage and packaging will be refunded.



The new Camry. For such a quiet car it's making a great deal of noise.

Toyota lists 17 class rivals, from Alfa 164 to Saab 9000, BMW 5-Series to Volvo 900 Series. I doubt if any can beat it for a combination of refinement and value.

FINANCIAL TIMES 14/9/91

It goes and handles very well and comes with a full specification that must make the rival manufacturers green with envy.

MAIL ON SUNDAY 15/12/91

The doors fit precisely and close softly, the paint is near flawless, and the detailing is exceptional, outside and in. Added to this is a new-found integrity to the car's feel on the road. The new Camry both rides and drives like a genuine heavyweight.

So at last, Toyota has a top model deserving of the name.

AUTOCAR & MOTOR 18/9/91

The Lexus quality is already percolating into the mainstream Toyota range. While driving the new Camry, recently arrived in British showrooms, I was struck by how much like a smaller Lexus it felt, with enviable smooth-riding quietness, refinement and silky performance.

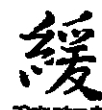
OBSERVER 17/11/91

Zippering along the autobahn at 130mph, the bigger-engined Camry was virtually silent inside, the only intrusive sound being a slight wind rush.

AUTO EXPRESS 15/10/91

TOYOTA CAMRY 2.2 GLI, £17,519: Completely new Camry is much bigger than its predecessor with two engine options: a 2.2-litre four-cylinder unit producing 134bhp (as tested here) plus a 185bhp 3.0-litre V6. The new, bigger Camry enters a brand-new executive-class marketplace and has all the right credentials to do well, including a high specification level and very competitive pricing. Anti-lock brakes and catalyst exhaust are standard.

WHAT CAR? JAN 1992



Everyone who drives the new Camry — whether the V6 GX or 2.2 GL — is impressed by its breathtaking performance and staggered by its comprehensive levels of equipment.

More astonishing still is the sheer value that the Camry represents.

The range starts from just £17,520.

Not surprising, therefore, that when comparing the Camry 2.2 GL, Rover 820i and Mercedes 200E, *'Autocar & Motor'* nominated the Camry as the best of the bunch. Nor that *'Auto Express'*, when comparing it with its rivals, declared the Camry best buy in its class.

Before you pay more for less, why not take a test drive? Call 0420 22607 and, if you require, we'll arrange for a car to be delivered to you.

To: Toyota Information Service, PO Box 30, Alton, Hants GU34 4PX. Please send me more information.
Camry ☐ Toyota Saloons ☐ Sports ☐ Specialist ☐
Please contact me to arrange a test drive: ☐
Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Daytime phone no. _____
Current car _____
Model _____ Reg. letter _____
Intended replacement date: Month _____ Year _____
TOYOTA CAMRY
FROM £17,520 TO £22,325 T29/1

Why are there so many repeats on TV?

**EMERGENCY
APPEAL
FOR ETHIOPIA**

**BANGLADESH
TIDAL WAVE
APPEAL**

**ERITREA AND TIGRAY
EMERGENCY**

**URGENT
APPEAL FOR
ERITREA**

**MOZAMBIQUE
EMERGENCY
APPEAL**

**CRISIS
IN AFRICA
APPEAL**

**MEXICO
EARTHQUAKE
DISASTER**

**SUDAN
EMERGENCY
APPEAL**

**BANGLADESH
CYCLONE DISASTER
APPEAL**

Every year we see appeal after appeal on behalf of the Third World. Why is this?

Is it because there are more disasters in the Third World?

No. Earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and droughts happen throughout the world. But in the developed countries, life quickly returns to normal.

In the Third World, on the other hand, disasters are compounded by poverty, with desperate consequences.

For example, last year in Bangladesh, a cyclone killed over 50,000 people. This was largely because families were forced to live on land prone to flooding because they were too poor to live anywhere safer.

Turning back to the original question, perhaps then there are more appeals because there are more wars?

There are wars all around the globe, but it is in the poorest countries that they have the most catastrophic consequences. For example, in Ethiopia, the war drove people

from their once fertile farms, causing food shortages and widescale starvation.

Here's another reason that's often given for the Third World's troubles: they don't know how to run their countries.

But the fact is, governments everywhere are fallible. However, the Third World pays much more dearly for its mistakes.

Look at the Third World Debt — a mistake made jointly by the countries that did the lending and those that did the borrowing. No one gains, but the poor lose more than most.

For example, in 1989 in Sudan, hundreds of thousands of people starved to death. Yet at the same time, the Sudanese government gave \$97,000,000 to the West in debt repayments.

By now it should be clear that the Third World's agonies won't go away as long as the underlying poverty acts as an amplifier for problems like disasters, war and economic set-backs.

This is why at Christian Aid we work to tackle the root causes of poverty, as well as relieving the suffering it causes.

It is why we work to strengthen the hand of the poor in the long term, through education, usable technology, and land reform. It is why we believe in debt relief and fairer trading conditions. And it is why we value, not just your financial contribution, but also your voice.

We have produced a leaflet about Third World poverty and the ways in which you can help relieve it. Please send for it.

Together we can help to stop Third World history from repeating itself.

☐ I'd like to know more. Please send me your leaflet on the relationship between poverty and disasters in the Third World.

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

I would like to donate £ _____ to: Christian Aid, Freepost, London SE1 7YY or telephone 0800 300 390.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death



The text of Prince Charles's speech on architecture

Building my dream of future harmony

The Prince of Wales outlines his plan to humanise our towns and cities

I remember when I was much younger feeling very disturbed by the trends of the time, which seemed to be directed towards destroying the traditional foundations on which so many of our human values had been based for thousands of years. I remember reading that God was dead. I remember familiar buildings vanishing, bomb sites in London being redeveloped in a way that was alien to the fabric of the city. I remember the centres of our old towns being ripped apart in the interests of what was called "progress" and being replaced by the uncompromising starkness of purely functional buildings.

I remember vast housing estates mushrooming around our cities, with no sensitivity whatsoever to the landscape. I remember hedgerows being uprooted by the mile, wet places and wild areas being drained and "improved", and everywhere this urgent, almost missionary, zeal to sweep away any traditional bric-à-brac which had outlived its usefulness. All the professions seemed to encourage it. The "experts" and scientists encouraged it.

As I grew older I wondered why I had minded so much about the changes that were taking place (like many other people, I suspect, I had not dared to express my true feelings for fear of being thought ignorant). Then I learnt about Descartes and scientific rationalism. I discovered that this led to a mechanistic view of the universe and of man's place in it, and I began to realise what lay at the root of this feverish revolution.

In the simplest terms, we were being persuaded to see the cosmos as a gigantic machine which could be examined, experimented with and manipulated by man for his exclusive use. Everything could be explained by science, and anything that couldn't be so explained simply didn't exist. According to this view, man himself becomes a mere mechanical object, and any notion of a metaphysical reality disappears. The sense of humanity's uniqueness is thrown out, to be replaced by an egocentric world view which denies the sacred and stresses the purely rational.

I have often wondered why I was not seduced by this logical but soulless philosophical approach. The pressures to yield to it have been and still are enormous. Those who resist are described as at best eccentric, at worst dour cranks. The temptation to conform can be very powerful. So why haven't I? What is it that produces this overwhelming feeling that the

universe is based on profound principles which inspire a continual sense of awe and reverence? It is an awareness of something beyond the confines of self, and it becomes more evident when in the presence of great beauty.

Many people will doubtless recognise such inexplicable feelings as are induced by the proportions of a building: the extraordinary sense of "harmony" that such proportions can engender. Many people will feel the same when they see a landscape sculpted and fashioned over thousands of years by the hands of men whose customs, passed down orally from one generation to another, and whose reverence for the natural world led them to create a harmonious synergy with their surroundings.

I can understand how quickly the industrial revolution, when it

ed the mathematical and geometric principles that were inherited in turn by the Greeks. The whole of European culture is based on our Graeco-Roman heritage, at the root of which lies what many consider to be these profound and, indeed, sacred principles. I believe that there is a growing desire on the part of many people to search for this missing part of their experience, which has been so obviously derided and abandoned in the education of architects.

In many ways, architecture is the most effective way to translate both the unconscious experience of the heart and the conscious principles of the mind into a "concrete" way of enclosing space. What I hope will be taught and explored in the new Institute of Architecture, which I am launching tonight, is the idea that the architecture which nourishes the

forms of architecture, based on new materials, new ways of building and new technologies.

This is where I hope my Institute will become a kind of crucible in which the architecture of the 21st century can be forged. I hope that the students who come to this new Institute will be able to play an imaginative role in society, that they will be able to set in motion new processes of construction, new forms of management and new ways of building towns. I hope students at my Institute of Architecture will base the architecture of the future on principles and on knowledge about the nature of space, uniting objective knowledge with profound human feeling. My aim in establishing this Institute is, above all, to respond to what I believe is a widely held desire among architecture students for a course of study which reflects the indefinable aspects of life and re-introduces the delicate thread of wisdom that connects us with our forefathers. I would like the students to appreciate that there are certain timeless values which we

can learn from the past and apply to the future. I should like the students to learn that in order to design with sensitivity and an appropriate sense of reverence for natural surroundings, they first need to learn humility and how to observe nature.

This is not to say that technology should be derided, but rather, that the Institute should encourage experiment in order to find more sensitive and imaginative ways of using modern materials to create buildings which reflect a hierarchy of scale.

The aim is to produce practitioners, not just theorists. The Institute's curriculum will have all the rigour consistent with the technical and economic demands of such a complex profession, but these will be placed within the wider context of our history and our culture, and indeed other people's cultures and geography.

The overriding aims of my Institute are to bring people together, to help end the fragmentation of building disciplines, and to break down the demarcating barrier between the values of professionals and those of the people affected by developments. I would like the students to leave with a feeling that they have experienced something rather special in their lives, that a new dimension of life has been revealed to them. They will need to discover these great truths, I believe, in order to be the beacons of civilised values in a world increasingly in need of real meaning and of that most precious of commodities: hope.



Patron prince: setting out to create an architecture of the heart for the next century

comes to each country, helps to eliminate that innocent and unquestioning sense of the sacred in man. And yet, despite all the dramatic changes that have been wrought by science and technology, and all the remarkable benefits they have brought us, there remains deep in the soul (if I dare use that word) a persistent and unconscious anxiety that something is missing — some vital ingredient that makes life worth living. We are told that our contemporary built environment must reflect the "spirit of the age". But I am afraid that we are creating an "age without spirit".

The ancients seemed to understand the subtle blend of matter and spirit in the universe. Around it, the ancient Egyptians formulat-

ed spirit is not so much a traditional architecture which apes the past as a particular kind of architecture, the forms, plans and materials of which are based on human feeling.

Recent research has begun to identify the forms and types of organisation which enable such an "architecture of the heart". Perhaps surprisingly, the kinds of buildings that tend to appeal to the human heart, and which make us feel at home, are from a very specific range, very particular in style, organisation and physical character. These are the buildings which we have always loved. They include, of course, all of the great traditional architectures of the past, enormously varied as these are, but they also include new

forms of architecture, based on new materials, new ways of building and new technologies.

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An idea that will make Major's mark

Peter Riddell on the Charter's significance

A WEEK IN POLITICS

John Major may turn out to be more radical in changing government than Margaret Thatcher ever was. By temperament he underestimates her achievements. While antagonising many in Whitehall, Mrs Thatcher left the basic structure of the civil service intact. But Mr Major, who on the surface is friendlier to the idea of public service, supports far-reaching changes in both Whitehall and local government. It is easy to underestimate Mr Major, to dismiss him as a Mr Footie with mundane concerns awkwardly expressed. But his "ordinary man" approach masks one of the acutest politicians I know.

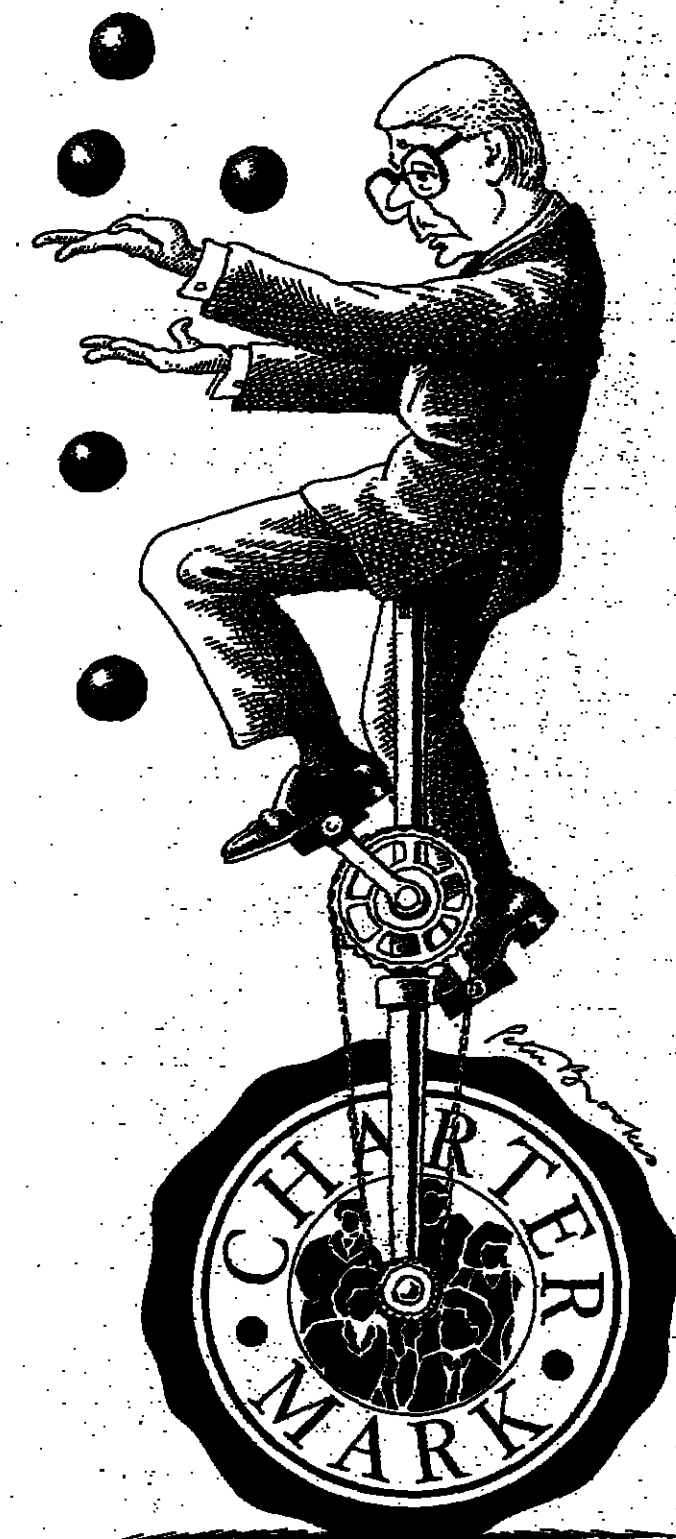
In this respect the Citizen's Charter — Mr Major's Big Idea — reflects an appreciation of the public's frustrations about distant services. Of course, his comment a few months ago about wanting "to produce something like the Citizen's Charter ever since I was in my teens" can be ridiculed — former bookie's runner days — dreams about reducing delays from motorway cones while watching Ken Barrington take five hours to score a century at the Oval. But the charter is not just a public-relations exercise. If people can rely on the man from the electricity or gas board turning up at an agreed time and they do not have to wait around for hours at a hospital, then the charter will have produced real benefits.

Naturally, the grand goals in 17 chapters for patients, parents and, this week, travellers beg a lot of questions about how the delivery of services can be improved. Trying to achieve by April the guaranteed maximum hospital waiting lists of two years has resulted in longer delays for the far larger number of people in line for operations — often more urgent — with waiting periods of less than a year.

But the charter is merely the public face of a deeper debate about how government can be made more efficient. There is a direct line from the Fulton report of 1968, through the Heath government's reforms, via the activities of Derek Rayner and Robin Ibbot with the efficiency unit and the financial management initiative, up to the Next Steps initiative and the Citizen's Charter. Each has tried to identify costs and delegate management, though within the public service framework, preserving lifetime career structures and close links with unions. Whitehall has been conservative about its own structure.

The aim of the Next Steps initiative has been to set up semi-independent agencies with performance targets. These agencies range from social security benefits to the royal parks, and have various degrees of independence. But, as a report from the Institute for Public Policy Research argues, no one has resolved how to combine devolved management with ministerial accountability to Parliament, especially when the Treasury wants to maintain tight control over public spending.

Graham Mather of the Institute of Economic Affairs argues that Next Steps has so far been a cautious advance to a T-junction. From here, one way is the mana-



gerial path, involving more efficiency and adopting best private sector practices. This is favoured by defenders of the traditional civil service, and would probably be backed by a Labour government.

The alternative path would develop government by contract, already implicit in the Next Steps initiative and explicit in the proposals for hospital trusts, grant-maintained schools and Training and Enterprise Councils running local programmes. This separates the roles of purchaser and provider. Government, whether central or local, becomes primarily a setter of standards, raising taxes to pay for services which are provided by either public or private bodies. This is already happening in local government and the NHS, with extensive competitive tendering for, and contracting out of, services ranging from refuse collection to property management. Under the euphemism of "market testing", this process is now being extended to central government in a far more comprehensive way than in the Thatcher years. The radicals would like to see eventual

open competition for the services of entire agencies, a small step from their full privatisation. This would directly threaten the civil service unions.

"Government by contract" also implies that some public services would be removed from the political arena, challenging traditional ideas of democratic accountability. The remit of local councils is already being weakened by direct Whitehall links with grant-maintained schools. Those in Whitehall who award contracts, whether to schools, hospitals or executive agencies, would have much greater power. If local education authorities are to be willed away, the Department of Education has to expand to monitor thousands of schools?

The resolution of this largely unappreciated debate depends upon the election. Mr Major is said to favour a radical approach, and he has put Francis Maude and John Redwood, two Thatcherite ministers, in charge of the Citizen's Charter. For all the managerial caution of his style, Mr Major could surprise us all if he wins.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I have been to meetings like that. In the days when I encouraged my corporate ambitions and let me run things with staffs and budgets and a group marketing policies and all that stuff. I used often to put on a double-breasted suit and a floral tie and have myself chauffeured to some chic post-modernist atrium where a girl consoling mainly of leg would conduct me to a vault containing a 20 ft table cut from a single tranche of scotch. Around this, the entire creative department of, let us say, Bell, Book & Candle would be waiting, with flip-chart and VCR to lead me through what they were pleased to call their thinking.

So I know how easy it is to get stuck with a really rotten concept. For I have seen many a spatchcock flag run up on a rickety flagpole, and I have watched all present salute their except me, but I have also invariably wound up accepting the agency's campaign for my hapless product because I have persuaded myself that advertising people must know what they are talking about or they wouldn't all have Ferraris, and anyway, I had to get out after a bit, you can take just so much Perrier on an empty stomach.

All this came back to me yesterday, as I stood staring up at a huge poster of Mr Norman Lamont. Or of part of him, at least: the part unconcealed by the black cowl superimposed on his normally imperceptible features by some spy graphics

brat, who had gone on to inscribe, beside the massive head, in giant capitals: VATMAN. And, do you know, my first thought was not of all my crackpot meetings of yesterday, my first thought was that Saatchi & Saatchi were in a different class from all the layabouts with whom I had once been forced to have reluctant truck for this was a really terrific advertisement for the Conservative party, this was a vote-winner, this was a very smart poster indeed.

It was only when my eyes moved to the small print that the years rolled back. Because this was not an advert for the Conservative party at all: this was an advert for the Labour party. Or thought it was. It was the enormous table which had sat at the smart alec in a Gucci blouson had said the way we see it is this: VAT is a major issue, okay, but VAT is, like, really boring, it has to be personalised, we are talking ad hominem here, so we have come up with this terrific hominem ad, ha-ha, what we do is we take the B of Batman, are you with me, and we...

Kinnock and Hattersley do not look at one another, neither wants to leap in and make a dummy of himself, these advertising people are professionals, they know what they're doing, so Kinnock and Hattersley just and the also drones on, he has research data, he has design

soon Kinnock and Hattersley find themselves on the street again, saying I'll be all right, these people are professionals, where shall we eat?

And nobody has said: hang on a sec, wasn't Batman the caped crusader, wasn't he the courageous champion of right, wasn't he the unimpeachable guardian of the Gotham citizenry, wasn't he the hero whose matchless nerve and judgment they turned to when all else failed, and did he not always pull their chestnuts from the fire? More yet, was there not a certain mouse-ness about the Lamont presence before the mask came along to deepen his eyes and strengthen his jaw, before the cape broadened his shoulders and barrelled his chest?

And then there is Robin. What does this poster do but incalculably strengthen David Mellor's claim to the Boy Wonder title? Do we not see the fresh-faced chief secretary to the Treasury back-to-back with his two-fisted boss, hammering such forces of economic evil as dare to take on the Dynamic Duo? And if their ultimate weapon were indeed a per cent or two on VAT, would we not trust in their heroic hands?

Nor should we ignore the hostage to fortune that lurks in all knocking-copy. Remember Batman's false-faced enemy with the pointy nose and the dourish cackle. So can you guess who'll figure on the Tory posters as soon as Saatchi's realise how much mileage there is in THE JOKER?

Verses versus censorship

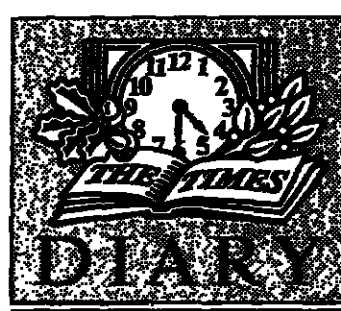
SALMAN RUSHDIE will make a Valentine's day gesture of defiance on the third anniversary of the fatwa imposed after the publication of *The Satanic Verses*. He will take part in a global television debate on censorship. Günter Grass and Tom Stoppard are also expected to appear in the hour-long debate, which will be shown live on BBC 2. Meetings are being held at the BBC today with Alan Yentob, the controller, to discuss the format of the programme.

Even as Rushdie speaks from his secret location, similar debates will be taking place around the world. Countries such as Denmark, Ireland, Switzerland and France will be hosting live televised discussions on censorship with leading writers and intellectuals taking part.

In the run-up to the third anniversary of the fatwa, the Worldwide Media Project is co-ordinating a letter-writing operation to Rushdie via 23 national newspapers. The first appeared in a German newspaper this week. Edward Said, Norman Mailer and Margaret Atwood have committed their support.

A spokeswoman for the Friends of Salman Rushdie, which is co-ordinating the international effort, says: "It is going to be the biggest co-ordinated effort since the fatwa was imposed."

The Foreign Office, which in November persuaded them to call off the vigil to mark 1,000 days of the fatwa, has asked to be informed of the plans. But Melvyn Bragg, one of Rushdie's friends, says: "We will not be calling this off. We hope this is the event that will make the Foreign Office realise that Rushdie has to be part of any deal with Iran."



● If, as suggested, the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture moves into Somerset House, it could have some unlikely neighbours. The Architecture Foundation, a hotbed of modernism, has already applied to move into the same building. It is chaired by Sir Richard Rogers, one of the Prince's least favoured architects, who designed the Lloyds Building. James Stirling and Sir Norman Foster, whose work has also displeased the Prince, are trustees. "I am sure we will get on just fine," says a foundation spokeswoman.

Tune in

GAY BYRNE, who almost finished Peter Brooke's political career, has now set his sights on the favourites to succeed Charles Haughey. They are being asked on to Byrne's RTE programme *The Late, Late Show* to sing their favourite songs. "Nearly all my guests sing on the show," says Byrne. "It's a tradition." Brooke's rendition of "O my darling Clementine", hours after an IRA bomb killed seven workmen, led to him offering his resignation to the prime minister.

Byrne is confident that the front-runners to succeed Haughey — Albert Reynolds, the former finance minister, Bertie Aherne, his suc-

cessor, and Mary O'Rourke, the health minister — will agree to appear on his Friday show. Reynolds should do best in the singing stakes. Buried in the RTE archives is a 15-year-old film of Reynolds strumming a guitar and singing a song in a packed ballroom to the evident amusement of the dancers. Reynolds might not find it so funny if the film were re-run. But his blushes may be spared: RTE is off the air because of a strike.

Long player

THE collapse of communism in Eastern Europe had to come at a price. The Eurovision Song Contest may be doubled in length to accommodate the newly emerging democracies.

Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the members of the CIS have applied to compete in next year's song contest. Frank Naef,

the head of the European Broadcasting Union which is discussing the plan this week in Geneva, says: "It would make the contest very full." With the programme already lasting three hours, how many viewers would stay tuned in for a further three?

Combs will report to Mary Bartholomew, who was seconded to Central Office from Shandwick, Britain's largest PR company, last year. She is now among the closest advisers to Woodward and Chris Patten. Women now outnumber men for the first time in the communications unit, the success of which will make or break the Tory election campaign.

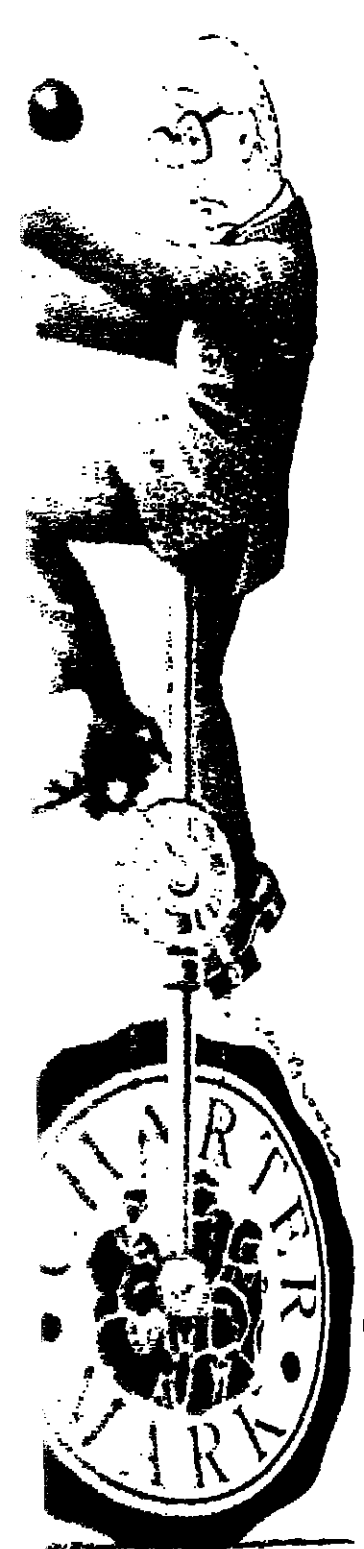
Task for the ladies?

JOHN MAJOR may not have any women in the cabinet, but behind the scenes they are playing a significant role. A woman has been appointed to head a new communications task-force set up this week by Tory central office. "Conservatives in Communications" — a team of 30 key figures from public relations, advertising, radio and television — is to work closely with Shaun Woodward, the party's head of communications.

Woodward has now asked Kathryn Combs, a director of Dewe Rogerson, to coordinate the body, which will have a vital input into the Tories' election strategy. However, Sir Tim Bell, Mrs Thatcher's favourite ad man, is conspicuously absent.

Combs will report to Mary Bartholomew, who was seconded to Central Office from Shandwick, Britain's largest PR company, last year. She is now among the closest advisers to Woodward and Chris Patten. Women now outnumber men for the first time in the communications unit, the success of which will make or break the Tory election campaign.

What will
or's mark



A RUSSIAN HERCULES

Boris Yeltsin is a courageous, principled democrat. He also heads a country engulfed in greater political, economic and social turmoil than it has known for decades. His sagacity and commitment to democracy are now under pressure from an awesome coalition of former communists, bureaucrats, military hardliners and disillusioned nationalists who are blocking many of his radical reforms. So far, he has stood up well to the strain, as decisive in office as he was trenchant in opposition. He has not revealed the rumoured streak of authoritarianism. Nor has he proved the bully, the clown or the dangerous nationalist. He must be judged not in comparison with Mikhail Gorbachev but on his progress so far.

Such a judgment will be easier after his visit to Britain and his appearance today at the United Nations Security Council summit. Mr Yeltsin has little training in international affairs, but has clearly made good use of his advisers. He gave Mr Major a realistic assessment of the troubles besetting Russia and the still incalculable Commonwealth of Independent States. He struck the right note in insisting that Russia is now an ally and partner of the West. He spoke convincingly in his interview with David Dimbleby of the need to "negotiate, negotiate and negotiate" with his opponents at home, and not rely on undemocratic emergency measures.

Mr Yeltsin was, unsurprisingly, less clear on the details of nuclear policy. He should not waste time mastering the arcane technicalities of arms control but agree the broad lines of a foreign policy. Overwhelmingly, he must concentrate on the immense tasks at home. Not until the bold price reforms yield results and plans to give back land and private industry are further advanced can he find time for any world role.

The Middle East peace conference should never have been in Moscow last week, a hangover from Mr Gorbachev's attempt to retain credibility as a world statesman. Mr Yeltsin rightly decided it was more important to sort out the argument over the

Black Sea fleet than be seen shaking hands with Egyptians and Israelis. It was discourteous to miss a meeting with the Japanese foreign minister. But his inexperienced aides are to blame, not Mr Yeltsin. There will be more such gaffes, and the world must show patience and understanding.

A more serious charge levelled at Mr Yeltsin is that he is impetuous, unable to conceal his emotions or control his tongue. This has several times brought him close to danger. Immediately on taking office he spoke rashly about changing Russia's borders. His speeches denouncing Ukraine's claim to the Black Sea fleet were inflammatory. He rushed through foolish decrees merging the interior ministry with the KGB and proclaiming a state of emergency in the rebellious district of Chechnya-Ingushetia. But on each occasion he has moved swiftly to repair the damage. He acknowledged defeat in the Russian parliament on his unpopular decrees and did not try to bypass the democratic process.

Mr Yeltsin has been branded a populist, as though appealing for popular support were politically suspect. In this he was compared unfavourably with the more cerebral but finally unpopular Mr Gorbachev. But his popular support is reflected in a strong mandate at the ballot box. And popularity is essential if Mr Yeltsin is to push through price reform and industrial reorganisation, essential if he is to appeal above the heads of those trying to sabotage reform.

Mr Yeltsin has much in common with former President Reagan. Both men voice the mood and feelings of their countrymen. Neither is an intellectual, yet both have an instinctive grasp of politics. Like President Reagan, Mr Yeltsin is trying to restore morale and change attitudes in a country mired in pessimism and self-doubt. The world cannot expect a smooth performance. Here is the free-ranging "broad spirit" of traditional Russia. But Mr Yeltsin represents, in hazardous solitude, the best hope for his country's democratic recovery. He deserves Western support to the full.

LATE BUT UNLAMENTED

"I will believe Charles Haughey is dead when I see him buried at midnight with a stake driven through his heart, and even then I will carry a clove of garlic in my pocket for good luck." So intoned the distinguished Irish columnist, Conor Cruise O'Brien, in *The Times*. Yesterday the Taoiseach and Fianna Fail leader publicly pronounced his own burial at the crossroads. Ireland will be the winner if the anachronistic political culture he represented is interred alongside him.

How did he survive so long? Clan loyalties run deep in Irish politics, particularly in Fianna Fail. The pundits were kept guessing until the last possible moment. Despite earlier promises to quit, Mr Haughey's cronies had made the tantalising observation: "A man often goes to bed with one idea and wakes up with another." His cabinet colleagues hoped Mr Haughey would make a pragmatic if not dignified exit. The polls suggested the public were heartily sick of him. Would his party colleagues overthrow Mr Haughey at the behest of turncoats like the Progressive Democrats, Fianna Fail's partners in government? They did, but only as a last resort.

Mr Haughey's ability to pull a "stroke" or outmanoeuvre his enemies was widely admired. Whatever mischief Mr Haughey appeared to get up to, at least half the adult Irish population could be guaranteed to forgive him in the voting booths.

Nothing better illustrated Mr Haughey's instinctive feel for populist politics than his behaviour at the EC summit in Dublin in 1990 during the World Cup. The Taoiseach abandoned a formal press conference to watch a penalty shoot-out involving the Irish team. As soon as the Irish scored their winning goal Mr Haughey raced for the television cameras to dance a victory jig.

Given a choice between a long moral lecture from well-meaning Garret Fitz-Gerald, friend to gentle social democrats the

world over, and a roguish appeal from Mr Haughey, the Irish chose the man with a twinkle in his eye. That many British journalists and Conservative politicians, notwithstanding his Republican credentials, also came under his spell should have alerted his compatriots' suspicions. Mr Haughey disastrously reinforced foreigners' misguided prejudices about the Irish.

Charles Haughey represented a brand of old Irish politics dating from the days of independence. But the civil war must now be laid to rest. In the words of Yeats the Irish have laboured too long under "MacDonagh's bony thumb". Nor could he escape his own past. Forced out of office after the IRA gun-running scandal, acquitted in court but nevertheless disgraced, his career was one long fightback against the odds.

After a brief interregnum under Mr FitzGerald, Mr Haughey's second victory in March 1982 laid the foundations of his eventual ruin. Financial scandals abounded and a murderer was arrested in the home of his attorney general, Patrick Connolly. As Haughey's paranoia grew, loyalty oaths were wrung from cabinet colleagues and unsympathetic Dublin journalists had their telephones tapped by the justice minister, Sean Doherty. Lies and deceptions from that period have haunted him ever since.

A younger, uncorrupted generation of Irish politicians, exemplified by the new president Mary Robinson, have grown to political maturity since the Troubles. As dreams of Irish unity turned into nightmares in the North a cooler-headed appraisal of the Unionist position and the Catholic status of the Republic was bound to follow. With the social problems bred by 20 per cent unemployment, high emigration and a narrow economic base, Mr Haughey's fall is a mercy. As unkind critics used to say about the Irish economy, his leavetaking is catastrophic but not serious.

THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND

Everyone suffers from the glooms. Some are brought on by external events, divorce, perhaps, or bereavement. Others come from nowhere and vanish unpredictably. At any one time, roughly three million Britons are "depressed". Many, according to a survey published yesterday, are "embarrassed to admit it, and most are unaware of how easily it can be treated."

Anti-depressant drugs are not addictive, have no serious side-effects and lift the spirits of 70 per cent of those taking them. Doctors launching yesterday's campaign to increase public awareness of depression see no reason why some sufferers should not take them continuously. The analogy, they say, is with insulin for diabetes: depression is often due to chemical imbalances in the brain and chemical treatments are the obvious cure. Why then, does the idea of GPs routinely prescribing anti-depressants seem questionable?

The British antipathy to pill-popping stems partly from a traditional view that those depressed should simply "pull their socks up" or "snap out of it". Depression seems indulgent, an extravagance that only the lazy or selfish can afford, an affliction of those with too much time on their hands. Other cultures are more sympathetic. Americans attach little stigma to depression: interminable television programmes explore it and an industry of psychoanalysis and therapy has evolved in response.

The British suspicion runs deeper. Anti-depressants seem too like soma, a happiness drug that by its nature is artificial. Some depressions may be simply chemical, but others have a psychological root. Drugs treat

the symptoms, but not the cause. If all they do is alter the patient's mood chemically, in what way are they different from a bottle of Scotch or a syringe of heroin — except in that they are prescribed on the NHS? If all those who suffered depression were to resort to drugs, would the world be a better place?

The sum of human happiness would undoubtedly increase. But, as John Stuart Mill, the answer does not end there. The psychiatrist Anthony Storr believes there is a correlation between depression and great achievement. Winston Churchill, whose "black dog" of depression haunted him all his life, is a famous example. Goethe, Schumann, Luther and Tolstoy suffered recurrent bouts of gloom too.

Dr Storr believes that the illness acts as a spur to avoid melancholy the sufferer will "deny himself rest or relaxation, and accomplish more than most men are capable of, just because he cannot afford to stop." If Churchill had been prescribed anti-depressants, he would have been a happier man. But he might never have discovered writing or painting, both pursuits that he used to stave off despondency. More important to Britain, he might not have inspired the nation with the courage needed when defeat seemed imminent.

Clearly medical advance enables the relief of ever more suffering and should not be impeded for that. If chemically induced depression can be cured, and if resistance must be overcome, so it should. But unhappiness remains a component part of human experience. The holy grail of eternal bliss is better sought than found.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

The charter, the customer and the civil service

From Mrs D. P. Drake
Sir, Because of delays and cancellation of trains at our local station yesterday, my husband arrived at the Hospital for Sick Children, where he is a consultant, 40 minutes late for work.

Should the patients who then had to wait to see him complain to the hospital administrator, British Rail, or the prime minister?

Yours faithfully,
LINDA DRAKE,
14 College Gardens,
Dulwich, SE21.
January 28.

From the General Secretary of the Institution of Professional Managers and Specialists
Sir, Your leading article, "Uncivil servants" (January 28), contained contradictory images of public-sector employees as both demoralised workers delivering poor public services and workers "tucked into a job for life", arrogantly ignoring the public. These only underline the contradiction which bedevils the government's citizen's charter.

Both the charter and your leader seek to transfer responsibility for poor-quality public services down to the level of the individual worker. Contrary to the article's assertion, the argument that the charter can only be effective when public-sector workers fear the sack consists of all sick and no carrot; it alludes to a level of job security which simply no longer exists.

Such an argument also ignores the reality that no worker — in the public or the private sector — has any meaningful influence on raising service quality. This requires investment, training, adequate communication and information systems, etc. For example, will employees of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency face an increased risk of the sack because the extra investment required to improve their telephone enquiry system has been refused? Will DVLA's charter targets reflect this?

Francis Maude, the Treasury minister in charge of the charter, is right to recognise that civil servants "want to give good service" and "don't need to be bullied or hounded" into giving it, and it is an offence to the continuing dedication of demoralised public-sector workers to suggest otherwise. It is a pity, however, that the government does not recognise the public-sector ethos which in itself motivates civil servants.

Yours faithfully,
BILL BRETT,
General Secretary,
Institution of Professionals,
Managers and Specialists,
75-79 York Road, SE1.
January 28.

From Mr A. J. B. Sargent
Sir, Your leading article refers to civil service performance and the hope that "performance-related pay" might do the trick. This, I am sorry to

say, is like trying to run before you can crawl.

In the first place you have to learn how to manage performance itself. This means defining basic standards, targets for achieving them, and then providing for continuous review and corrective action. In turn, this may lead to the remote possibility that staffing levels, and hence costs, will be sufficiently reduced to finance the cost of a genuine performance-related pay scheme.

If this government — any government — were to pour even more public money into the pot in order to accommodate ill-designed "performance incentives" it would quickly find the pot to be bottomless.

What the civil service is truly afraid of, not because it does not understand the concept but because it understands it only too well, is defining and managing performance. The nation already does pay for it. The problem is that it doesn't always get it.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. B. SARGENT,
1 Woodlands Park,
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.
January 28.

From the Director of the British Quality Association

Sir, Last July, I welcomed publication of the citizen's charter as a significant initiative to promote improvements in the quality of public services.

Its relaunch by the prime minister is equally welcome as it begins to address the problems of changing cultures as well as implementing improved systems. The relaunch charter gives an impetus to the first, while our members' experience across the whole of UK enterprise can provide the latter. Quality-improvement programmes need underpinning by an effective quality management system.

It is a long journey the government has embarked upon but one which will, ultimately, be to all our benefit. I wish it well.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY SPINDLER, Director,
British Quality Association,
10 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.
January 28.

From Mr Martin Smith
Sir, Some of the substantive proposals contained in the government's various mini-charters are wholly welcome. In health and social security, for example, organisations like

the National Consumer Council have been calling for such reforms for years.

But it is clearly false to suggest, as the prime minister does, that service quality (friendliness, speed of complaints handling) is unrelated to resource allocation. An over-stressed and over-stretched social security officer, for example, cannot reasonably be expected to perform in the same way as a more appropriately loaded colleague.

Throwing money at the problem is not the answer, but investing adequately in response to need is an inescapable part of any credible programme for improving the delivery of our sorely-pressed public services.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN SMITH,
Basement Flat,
20 Macaulay Road, SW4.
January 28.

From the Director of the British Road Federation

Sir, Since I understand that 90 per cent of the population never travels on a train it seems ironic that the citizen's charter should focus attention on the undoubted shortcomings of British Rail, most of which, in my view, are due to poor management rather than lack of money.

It would be of greater appeal if government and opposition would promise a congestion-free road system and the completion of the 500 or more by-passes and relief roads for which communities across the length and breadth of the country have long been waiting and for most of whom the prospect continually recedes.

This would provide a rapid and readily perceived improvement in the quality of life, reducing air pollution and making industry more competitive and profitable.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. WITT, Director,
British Road Federation Limited,
Pillar House,
194-202 Old Kent Road, SE1.
January 28.

From Mr David Erdman

Sir, The reason the railways are so unpunctual and run-down is a direct result of starving BR of funds, particularly during the last 15 years. Setting new targets and offering small discounts to passengers where these are not met will not alter the fundamental shortage of investment.

What is required is the redistribution of investment away from new road schemes (e.g. the M25 expansion) into public transport. While no effort is made to measure the cost or profitability of roads, no effort is spared to measure that of the railway.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID ERDMAN
(Secretary, Stansted, Epsom and Newport Travellers' Association),
134 Goddard Way,
Saffron Walden, Essex.
January 29.

fully discussed by the whole membership of the General Assembly.

Perhaps Russia should become a permanent member of the Council but that status should be conferred by two thirds (at least) of the membership, including all the remaining veto powers, and ratified by their governments. It should not be "inherited".

In any case, 46 years after the signing of the Charter the organisation should be asking itself if the victors of the second world war are still the most appropriate permanent members of the Council.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH HINDELL,
6 Lovelace Road,
West Dulwich, SE21.
January 29.

From Mrs Janet Bloomfield

Sir, Your editorial, "Whither Trident?" (January 30), clearly sets out the case for a fundamental rethink. There is no doubt that nuclear proliferation threatens world security. By the end of the century we could be faced with over 20 deep-seated regional conflicts that have the potential for becoming wars.

Arms control and diplomacy backed by strong and well-funded international agencies should be the basis for controlling proliferation, not clinging to "deterrence" and hoping for the best. The signing of a comprehensive test ban treaty which would severely hinder the design and development of new weapons and the strengthening and improvement of the Non-Proliferation Treaty are vital steps that could and should be pursued with the utmost vigour by those assembling for the UN Security Council summit meeting.

The sad state of British party political debate about the opportunities offered by the end of the nuclear stand-off of the Cold War cannot continue. The vision of the possibility of a "post-nuclear" world should be firmly on the political agenda.

In 1995 the NPT comes up for renewal. The treaty should be renewed, strengthened and fully implemented. Trident contributes nothing to our future security — it needs to be cancelled now.

Yours sincerely,
JANET BLOOMFIELD
(Vice-Chairman),
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
162 Holloway Road, N7.
January 30.

When the Welsh sing for victory

From Mr John Tipton

Sir, I was deeply moved by your report (January 24) on the decline of Welsh rugby in tune, if that is the word, with that of our national anthem — as was your leader writer on the same day. The resurgence of national pride cannot be allowed to weigh on the shoulders of one frail soprano, however fervent she might be.

Hen Wlad fy Nhadau ("Land of My Fathers"), properly used, is a lethal weapon which is not matched by any of our opponents. The All Blacks' *haka* may be impressive but is ephemeral; it is more suitable for the pitch than the stands. The Marseillaise sounds right but, for the French, it is for the *parrie* rather than the *equipe*. "Advance Australia Fair" is, by comparison, a maypole dance; and, with respect, who could heave to "God Save the Queen"?

Fortunately the Tenby Museum has prepared for this contingency with a text adapted for readers of Welsh, for those who can only cope with English vowels and even for phoneticians, should there be any on the terraces.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN TIPTON
(Honorary curator),
Tenby Museum,
Castle Hill, Tenby, Dyfed.
January 24.

From Mr J. S. Vaughan-Hughes

Sir, It is long since the days when leaving Cardiff station for the international match, with well over an hour to kick-off, one at once heard the singing at the Arms Park.

The slide has been gradual but steady. Two or three years ago the band of the Welsh Regiment TA, complete with goat mascot, replaced the long-serving local brass band. The military band is beautifully turned out, well drilled and fine musically, but somehow it plays on the edge of the event whereas its predecessor was a part of it.

The bandmaster of the old band was a folk hero in his own time. He would march his less than smart but familiar group to both ends and sides of the ground. At each point he would, with his back to his lads who well knew the form, conduct that section of the crowd through a selection of our tribal hymns and dirges. Thus, when the time came for *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau*, we were all warmed up and ready.

Stationed in the centre of the pitch and often more than 50 yards from his band, he would with extravagant gesture, great fervour and a fine passion draw us all into the great anthem. The roof was raised, our team inspired and, hopefully, the opposition cowed. Today we sing but are less wound up.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN VAUGHAN-HUGHES,
11 Ullswater Crescent,
Kington Vale, SW15.
January 25.

From Professor D. G. Rhys

Sir, The obvious way to reverse a 20-year melodic decline has been steadfastly ignored. That is, to print the words of the relevant hymns and arias, including *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau*, in the match programme.

Many years ago this was done, and it quickly stirred the tribal memories of people who had forgotten most of what they once knew; those who had never known were able to join in. Only thus will the singing really revive to emulate past communal triumphs.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. RHYSS,
Cardiff Business School,
Colum Drive, Cardiff.
January 25.

From Mr J. R. Milner

Sir, Perhaps the Welsh Rugby Union should think again about that soprano. Two can play at that game. Has the WRU never heard the Berlioz arrangement of the Marseillaise for full orchestra and chorus? It would sound fine at Cardiff Arms Park.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. MILNER,
8 Mellerstain,
Gordon, Berwickshire.
January 24.

"Granny dumping"

From Mrs Pauline Sillavan

Sir, My seven-year-old grand-daughter said to me the other day that she thought she would get married in her twenties.

I said: "How lovely, but I shall be 90." She said: "Don't worry, Granny, I shall come and fetch you."

From where?

Yours faithfully,
PAULINE SILLAVAN,
The Dingle, Whaley Bridge,
Stockport, Cheshire.

On the dot

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer

Sir, With regard to Philip Howard's comments on modern manners (... and more, January 25), I have always thought that the trouble with punctuality as a virtue is that there is never anybody else there to appreciate it.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,
34 West End,
Haddenham, Cambridge.

THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY JANUARY 31 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

● BUSINESS NEWS 19-26
● SPORT 29-32

Oftel says control is still needed over company's ability to put up prices

BT profits fall to £759m in third quarter

BY MARTIN WALLER

BT HAS announced a fall in quarterly profits for only the second time since the 1984 privatisation, ahead of a wide-ranging review by the industry regulator of the company's prices.

Pre-tax profits in the three months to December, the third quarter of the financial year, fell 3.6 per cent from £787 million to £759 million, but in the first nine months they remained on an upward path, showing a gain of £50 million, or 2.2 per cent, to £2.37 billion.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of telecommunications, yesterday launched the latest of a series of reviews, aimed at ensuring the customer is protected from BT's relative monopoly in the telecommunications market, with the publication of two consultative documents.

The current arrangements, which effectively require annual price cuts, expire in July next year, and Sir Bryan is requesting the opinions of interested parties before he and BT negotiate over the regime to be imposed thereafter.

Sir Bryan stressed that "for the time being", firm controls on the company's ability to raise its prices would still be necessary. He favoured the existing formula, which is expressed as the ability to raise prices by the rate of inflation minus a given figure.

In so doing, Sir Bryan has set his face against direct controls on profits or any restriction on the return on capital employed that BT is allowed to earn. He said the latter course would act as a disincentive for BT to improve its quality of service.

He has also decided against mandatory, immediate one-off price cuts. These, he said, would only distort the telecommunications industry by tempting BT to delay efficiencies and consequent cost savings until the latest pricing regime is in place.

There was relief in the City that Sir Bryan had rejected such a draconian approach and a feeling that the terms of the consultative documents were more favourable to BT than had been feared. BT's share price performed strongly in a weak market, the fully paid shares ending 4p ahead at 329p. The part-paid, sold by the government in a highly publicised issue last month, added 2p to 119p.

Laurence Heyworth, telecommunications analyst at Robert Fleming, commented: "Sir Bryan has been really quite gentle on BT, in that some of the things that BT might have feared and that he has threatened in the past haven't arrived. I would be very surprised if all this is not the basis for a satisfactory deal for BT."

James Dodd, of Kleinwort Benson, said Oftel's comments were much as expected. "If anything, they were slightly more benign than people's worst fears."

Jain Vallance, BT's chairman, apparently shared the general relief at the announcement from Oftel. He said: "It seems to contain no surprises, which is good news for us." He added: "You can see from the results of the last quarter that the current price cap of retail price inflation minus 6.25 per cent is pretty tough."

BT is blaming the profits

fall on the new pricing limit, which came into effect in September, on pressure from competitors, such as the Mercury network, and on the general economic downturn. Third-quarter turnover was flat at £3.3 billion against £3.28 billion. Inland telephone call revenues were down 1.5 per cent year-on-year in the third quarter, although showing a 1.1 per cent increase in the first nine months.

Mr Vallance said near-term prospects remained depressed, but BT will manage substantially to exceed the forecast 10,000 job losses in this financial year, perhaps by as much as 5,000, with consequent cost savings.

Sir Bryan said he would hear the arguments put forward as a result of the consultative papers before deciding if the next price regime would be tougher than the current one. He added: "I do intend to come up with a number which gives BT a tough challenge over the next few years in providing a better service to its customers."

He leaves Oftel to become director general of fair trading on June 1. Both he and BT were convinced the price review could be completed by then.

The latest quarterly figures from BT were immediately attacked by Labour. Doug Henderson, the shadow telecommunications spokesman, said profit levels were still excessive and the operating return nearly double that of any other telephone operator in the world. "There is scope for price reductions," he said.

Comment, page 23



Tough regime: Sir Bryan Carsberg, announcing BT's drop in third-quarter profits to £759 million, yesterday

Firms are cleared over Blue Arrow

THREE City firms have been acquitted of a conspiracy to defraud in the Blue Arrow trial after the judge said there was insufficient evidence for the case against them to continue.

County NatWest, the securities house, NatWest Investment Bank, its parent, and UBS Phillips & Drew Securities were advisers to Blue Arrow's £837 million rights issue in 1987. Five individuals remain on trial at the Central Criminal Court, all denying a single charge that they conspired to conceal the failure of the rights issue by buying millions of shares.

Mr Justice McKinnon directed the jury to return not guilty verdicts on the companies. He said his verdicts were a matter of law and had no effect on the remaining five individual defendants.

"There are legal and separate evidential reasons concerned with companies and how they can be liable in respect of crime," he said. He added that the jurors should consider the case as if the companies "were not ever defendants in this trial".

The judge awarded costs to all three firms, thought to be several million pounds. Of the ten defendants at the start of the trial, only half now remain.

They are Jonathan Cohen, former chief executive of County, David Reed, former managing director of corporate finance with the bank, Nicholas Wells, a former director and member of the bank's corporate advisory department, Martin Gibbs, a former director of UBS Phillips & Drew and head of the corporate finance department, and Christopher Stainforth, a former corporate finance director with the broker.

The judge said he expected to begin his summing-up on Tuesday.

Maxwell to petition Lords

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN Maxwell is planning to petition the House of Lords in order to avoid answering investigators' questions about the whereabouts of the Maxwell companies' missing pension funds.

Keith Oliver, a solicitor from Peters & Peters, the firm that is acting for Mr Maxwell, confirmed that the firm is preparing a petition to the House of Lords.

The petition will ask for permission to appeal against Wednesday's decision in the Court of Appeal that he had

to provide information to Robson Rhodes, the provisional liquidator of Bishopsgate Investment Management, the company that managed the funds.

The Court of Appeal refused to allow Mr Maxwell to appeal so he is now attempting to win permission direct.

Mr Maxwell's advisers are thought to be rushing to complete the petition, so they can submit it before next Wednesday. That is the deadline for Mr Maxwell to hand over affidavits about a series of

transactions at BIM, where he was a director. Rhodes believes the information may help to trace missing funds of up to £400 million.

If the Law Lords grant the application for an appeal they may also suspend the court order for Mr Maxwell to submit the affidavit and be questioned by the liquidators. But Mr Oliver stressed that Mr Maxwell would comply with any order made against him.

Meanwhile, the advisers of a small pension fund have launched a high court action against the trustees of the AGB pension fund, now in liquidation, in an attempt to recover up to £4 million.

The trustees of the Victoria Works Pension scheme, part of a management buyout from Hollis in 1988, allege that they have a priority claim on the assets in the AGB Pension Scheme. The fund, which has 345 members, is suing the former trustees, including Kevin Maxwell and Clay & Co, and the present trustees, which announced the liquidation this week.

Big men, little losers
L&T section, page 4

Pan Am files \$2.5bn suit against Delta

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

PAN AM World Airways, the collapsed American airline, yesterday launched a \$2.5 billion legal fight against Delta Airlines, which it claims drove it out of business.

In a 74-page document filed with the New York southern district bankruptcy court, Pan Am claims Delta's refusal to carry out its obligation to fund and sponsor a reorganisation plan forced Pan Am to cease operations.

A spokesman for Pan Am said last night: "We are also alleging that Delta was very much involved in every material decision that Pan Am, and their backing out at the last minute did not allow us the opportunity to seek other sources of funding."

A Delta spokesman said: "This suit is without merit. We met every obligation we had agreed we would with Pan Am and their creditors to the penny."

"They (Pan Am) advised the senior executives of Delta that their plan for reorganisation was not viable, and the original agreement was based on having that business plan in hand. So up to that time, we were fully committed. But at that time our

decision was not to continue to put more money into a losing proposition."

Delta withdrew its support for Pan Am just days before it was due to emerge from a period under the protection of the bankruptcy court.

Government to lift ban on foreign gas imports

BY ROSS TIERMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to lift its ban on gas imports and promote a feasibility study by six gas companies into the construction of a cross-Channel pipeline connecting Britain with the continental gas grid.

Colin Moynihan, the junior energy minister, told parliament. The about-face should provide British companies and households with access to cheap Russian gas later in the decade and help to arrest the rise in industrial gas prices that was triggered by increased use of gas for power generation.

The announcement was welcomed by British Gas, which has long argued that increased imports were necessary to provide flexibility and diversity of supplies.

The threat that Britain might be denied the benefits of other European countries from cheap Russian gas, and

government determination to increase competition in gas supply, seem to have contributed to the policy reversal.

Speaking in response to an emergency question from Frank Dobson, the shadow energy spokesman, Mr Moynihan said competition in gas supply would "benefit considerably" from free trade.

Geoffrey Chipperfield, a former permanent secretary at the Department of Energy, will head the feasibility study into the cross-Channel pipeline. The work will be carried out by a consortium including British Gas, BP, Statoil and Norsk Hydro of Norway, Conoco and Elf, the French state oil company.

It is understood that the government hopes other companies, including Gaz de France, will eventually participate in the project. It is estimated that a pipeline capable of supplying gas in either

direction across the channel would cost £200 million to £300 million.

Without it, Britain would be unable to participate in the pan-European energy market to which the European Commission is committed. Although continental gas prices are at present similar to those in Britain, German utilities have contracted to obtain cheap supplies from countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States which control 40 per cent of known world reserves.

Mr Moynihan yesterday approved imports by BP, Statoil and Norsk Hydro, which plan a joint venture to market gas in Britain and Eire, and approved the purchase by National Power of sufficient gas to fuel a 1,300 megawatt station from Statoil's Norwegian reserves.

Comment, page 23

Major offers Russia a helping hand again

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

AT FIRST glance, it might have appeared as if the government's left hand did not know what the right was doing. Just as John Willott, newly appointed chief executive of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, was laying the blame for heavy provisions on the former Soviet Union, the prime minister disclosed that Britain is again to offer credit cover for the Russia and other ex-Soviet republics.

The ECGB suspended cover to the then Soviet Union in August 1990, when perestroika was not having the desired effect on the economy. The ECGB has reported new provisions against bad debt of £496 million for 1990-1, the year in which it still operated a short-term export insurance arm.

The latest provisions were a fraction of the £3.3 billion



A matter of credit: Norman Lamont (left), Yegor Gaidar and John Willott

made in 1989-90, but those figures largely represented a one-off switch to stringent Bank of England provisioning rules. Total provisions stand at £7.6 billion. Business increased in 1990-1 from £15.7 billion to £16.8 billion.

Mr Willott attributed the bulk of last year's need for new provisions to disintegration in Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union. His aides put the exposure for the two countries at about £1 billion.

While Mr Willott would not say when cover could be resumed for Russia, John Major announced that after a Downing Street party with Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, £280 million of

medium-term export credit and investment insurance would be made available.

After a meeting at the Treasury with Norman Lamont, Yegor Gaidar, President Yeltsin's reformist finance minister, was bursting with gratitude over Britain's efforts to help Russia. Mr Major, if re-elected, is pledged to making enhanced trade and co-oper-

Nationalist card, page 7
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Threat to investors' safety net

BY SARA MCCONNELL

PAYOUTS to investors who lose money through firms declared in default could be at risk from March if members of regulatory organisations cannot afford to fund the Investors' Compensation Scheme (ICS) in full next year.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB) and the ICS said on Wednesday that they could not afford to renew insurance of compensation liabilities between £25 million and £100 million. The insurance would cover any shortfall if claims exceeded the amount raised through a levy on members of regulatory bodies.

Cover will last until March, the end of ICS's financial year. Investors of firms already declared in default will receive payouts if they are eligible. The cost of insurance last year was £450,000. ICS said that was no longer acceptable.

So far this year, the scheme has paid out £9.3 million to investors who lost money through 20 companies.

BMW sales increase to DM29.8bn

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

BMW, the German carmaker, last year shrugged off the recession in some of its export markets — including Britain and America — to increase its sales by 9.6 per cent to DM29.8 billion.

In an interim report, BMW said that net profits had also risen from the DM695.9 million achieved in 1990 but gave no details. However, profits are thought to have risen in line with sales.

The strong rise in sales came mainly through the introduction of the new 3-series model and strong domestic demand. In Germany, car sales rose by 21 per cent to 233,000 units, while on average they were static throughout the rest of Europe.

In Britain, however, they were down 10 per cent to 33,700.

Healthier prospects for Rank put profit gloom in the shade

SIR Patrick Meaney, chairman of Rank Organisation, described the group's annual results as "disappointing" yesterday, but the 47p jump in the share price to 642p showed that the City did not agree.

Institutional shareholders were relieved that the group had survived a difficult year without the much-rumoured rights issue or a dividend cut. Indeed, stripping out the interest charge, which increased from £16.2 million to £93 million, the figures looked remarkably healthy.

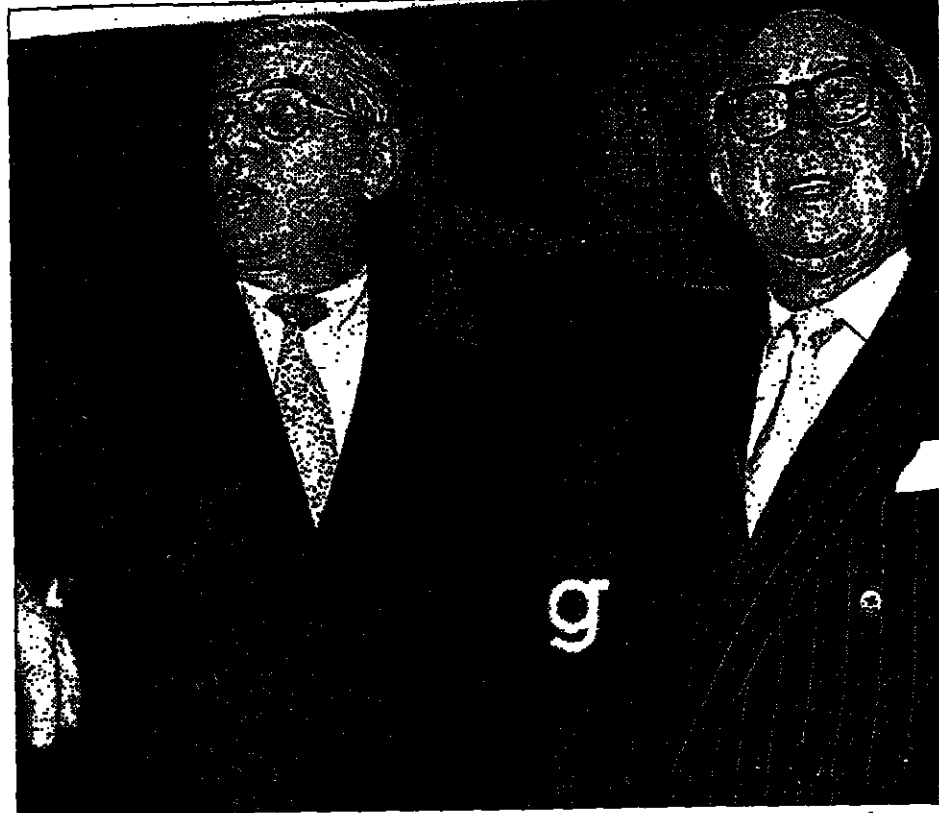
Trading profits in the year to October 31 rose from £145.1 million to £187 million on sales of £2.11 billion, up from £1.33 billion. Pre-tax profits fell from £312 million to £250 million because of the increased interest charge, a drop in the contribution from Rank Xerox and an exceptional charge of £1.3 million for rationalisation costs, against a £16 million exceptional profit last time.

Rank Xerox contributed £159 million (£167 million). Earnings per share fell from 70.1p to 38.4p and the final dividend of 20.75p gives an unchanged 31p total.

Borrowings of £961 million give a 64 per cent gearing level, and the increase in interest costs arises mainly from the full-year effect of the assumption of Mecca's borrowings. There is no doubt that Rank paid too much for Mecca (£500 million) at the wrong time, but Michael Gifford, the chief executive, does not regret the purchase. The worst effects of the deal and the subsequent recession should now be behind Rank.

With the exception of film and television, every other division increased trading profits.

Rank's task is to bring down borrowings, which it plans to do with a series of asset disposals, and to curb costs. The video distribution business is likely to take a couple of years to turn round but the rest of the group is well placed for a recovery.



No regrets: chief executive Michael Gifford (left), with Sir Patrick Meaney yesterday

The shares are yielding a respectable 6 1/2 per cent and are trading on 12.8 times earnings, assuming pre-tax profits of £290 million for the current year (BZW). They have recovered sharply in the month but should see further growth as consumer confidence recovers.

ML Holdings

TOLSTOY himself could not have constructed a gloomier plot for ML Holdings' first half. War and peace hit the aerospace and electronic components company in equal measure, plunging ML into the red for the six months to September 30.

The company has been struggling to redefine itself since the late Eighties, when it correctly perceived that the peace dividend would be paid out of the profits of defence suppliers. Unfortunately, its move

into civil aerospace coincided with the disastrous slump in that industry triggered by the Gulf conflict. As a result, operating profits halved to £2.4 million in the first six months of the year.

Restructuring costs related to the move out of defence were voluntarily taken above the line, to comply with new accounting standards that came into effect after the end of the period. Pre-tax losses after restructuring charges came in at £1.31 million, compared with a £3.03 million profit last year.

The deterioration in trading performance, and the scale of the bottom-line deficit caught the market unawares and the shares shed 10p to 43p. The fall would have been greater had the interim dividend not been held at 0.85p.

Although there are some positive signs — order intake, for example, is looking up —

the outcome for the full year depends heavily on disposals. Several sales of non-core assets are said to be close to completion, but the year-end is only two months away and the climate for disposals is far from favourable.

If the sales are not carried out, full-year losses could be as great as £2 million after further restructuring charges. The full-year dividend would also be under threat. If the disposals do happen, the company could break even and hold the payout.

The shares should be avoided while the downside risk remains so uncertain.

Domino Printing

DOMINO Printing Sciences has the knack of making lots of money, but then its philos-

ophy seems to be: if it moves, print a label on it.

The group's industrial ink jet printing equipment has a wide and growing range of uses, from dates on frozen food products to dates of production on tins of paint.

Domino Printing Sciences also plays a part in the mail shot and personalised mail business and an impending development is a three-year contract with the Royal Mail that could be worth at least £2 million.

Pre-tax profits rose from £6.09 million to £9.03 million in the year to the end of October on turnover up from £45.9 million to £60.4 million.

A good £2 million of the increase in turnover came from stricter European labelling legislation for food items, which complemented organic growth in the run of the mill business.

Domino turned its previous £700,000 borrowed position into one showing a net cash position of £1.8 million by the end of the year.

A rights issue to raise £15.3 million has been made since the end of the year, so its current net cash position is £17 million — useful for the acquisitions for which it is looking.

Group business links have been extended to include north Africa, Indonesia and China.

Market share was won from a competitor in France and new Spanish operations did well.

A new product line — mimeographic printing. Domino PackTrack — has gone down well at trade exhibitions, though proper commercial exploitation of the new line is yet to come.

The shares, recommended in *Tempus* a year ago at 186p, rose 22p to 423p yesterday on the recognition that further growth in profits is in store.

Pre-tax profits this year could reach £10.8 million, to put the shares on 15.5 times prospective earnings. That looks pricey, but none the less justified.

Europe's big airlines suffer 6% traffic fall

EUROPE'S major airlines suffered a 6 per cent drop in passenger traffic last year, their worst setback since the war. Downturns in the early Eighties and during the oil shock of 1973-4 were limited to less than 1 percentage point. The Association of European Airlines (AEA), the industry's main lobby group, said that its 22 members lost 25 per cent of their normal business during the peak three months of the Gulf troubles and that recovery since has been "painfully slow". The global growth in traffic did not resume again until October and in Europe only in December.

Overall, the airlines carried 7.3 million fewer passengers than in 1990. In comparison, the AEA said that in 1986, after Chernobyl and the bombing of Libya, 1.1 million fewer passengers were carried in five months, but the loss had been recovered by the year end. Air freight also declined last year, by 3 per cent.

Changes at Greycoat

RICHARD Guignard will temporarily take over as chief executive of Greycoat, the property group, while Geoffrey Wilson recovers from heart surgery. Mr Wilson is expected to return in two or three months, and Mr Guignard will continue as group finance director. Greycoat also announced that Ronald Spinney was stepping down as deputy chairman and joint managing director. Mr Spinney has been largely responsible for Greycoat's successful development programme, which is now complete and fully let. He will remain as a consultant.

Tilney sells for £6.8m

SALE Tilney, the loss-making mini-conglomerate headed by Andrew Coppel, the former finance director of Ratners, has sold Peabody Foods, its UK food division, to Stevens & Brotherton for £6.8 million. The proceeds from the disposal will reduce Sale Tilney Food's borrowings to £15 million. Group borrowings were £28.9 million on January 10. The disposal will result in a £3 million extraordinary loss. Peabody Foods, excluding the profitable dried-pasta business, which is being retained, made a pre-tax loss of £3 million on turnover of £51.7 million last year.

Menvier gains

A THRUST into Europe helped to insulate Menvier Swain's interim profits from the depressed UK market. The USM quoted emergency lighting and fire alarms group reported an increase in the pre-tax figure to £2.77 million (£2.76 million) in the half-year to October 31. Earnings fell to 43 per cent, from 74 per cent a year earlier. Turnover fell from £23.9 million to £19.7 million, although the figures last time included £4.53 million from discontinued businesses. Earnings climbed to 13.3p (12.7p) per share. The interim dividend is 2.7p (2.2p). The shares jumped 21p to 328p.

Resort profits plunge

INTERNATIONAL Resort Holdings, which has interests in golf courses, hotels and corporate hospitality, announced a slump in interim pre-tax profits from £1.65 million to £368,000 for the six months to September 30. There is again no interim dividend. Turnover dropped from £8.06 million to £3 million after the sale of the loss-making nursing homes division and a sharp reduction in development activity. The company said profits from several current projects might not crystallise by the end of the year, "making the outcome for this financial year uncertain".

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Income figures lead recovery

Decrease in orders sends dollar on roller-coaster ride

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE dollar dipped sharply because of data showing an unexpectedly big fall in orders for durable goods in America, only to rebound soon after on encouraging personal income figures and quickly denied rumours of a coup in Moscow.

The currency's roller-coaster ride, which left it up 3.5 pennings at DM1.6205 at the

London close, came as the financial markets continued to evaluate the impact President Bush's State of the Union speech and budget plans will have on economic growth. News of the 5 per cent fall in durable goods orders in December, with non-defence orders slumping 8.9 per cent, fuelled fears that the recovery expected by the

UK wants to delay financial draft

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN will not try to force through draft EC directives on financial services before the single market comes in at the beginning of next year. Trade ministers think the directives, especially that on investment services, should be dropped for the moment.

This would allow time for agreement to develop between member states led by Britain, which favour open markets and maximum competition, and those led by

France which favour heavier regulation and protection of national markets. John Redwood, the corporate affairs minister, and Tim Sainsbury, the trade minister, agreed in an interview yesterday that there was no need to rush the directives through. Mr Redwood said: "We have suggested compromises and concessions. What I hope will happen is that the French position will move on."

Unitech slips to £7.8m

Interim pre-tax profits at Unitech, the international electronics group, fell 11 per cent to £7.8 million in the six months to end-November.

The company was affected by slowdowns in the previously strong Japanese and German markets, and flat market conditions in North America, Britain and France.

The interim dividend has been halved to 2.1p to create a "saunter base for future dividend policy". Earnings per share fell by 28 per cent to 4p.

Bass trade deal

Bass, the brewer, has set up trading agreements with two London brewers, Young's, of Wandsworth, and Fuller, Smith and Turner, of Chiswick. The Bass public houses in London and the South-East will stock Young's Bitter and Fuller's London Pride. Meanwhile, the regional brewers will take two of Bass's strongest lager brands in their own public houses, Carling Black Label going to Fuller's and Tennant's Extra to Young's.

Davies slides

DY Davies, the architectural and building services group, saw pre-tax losses of £208,000 to £426,000 in the six months to end-October, on turnover down from £5.21 million to £3.54 million. There was an exceptional loss of £244,000. The deficit per share increased from 2.4p to 5.4p. Once again, there is no interim dividend.

Prism rises

Prism Leisure Corporation, the wholesale distributor of pre-recorded music and computer games, lifted pre-tax profits by 23.4 per cent to £374,000 in the six months to end-September. Turnover grew by 11 per cent to £5.8 million. Earnings rise 30.4 per cent to 6p (4.6p). The interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p.

Ewart falls

Ewart, the property group, has halved its interim dividend to 0.25p after pre-tax profits slumped from £253,893 to £103,625 in the six months to end-October. Turnover edged up from £1.74 million to £1.79 million. Earnings per share slid from 0.92p to 0.44p.

Scapa buys

Scapa Group is paying Firelli £6 million for Adenax, maker of industrial adhesive tapes.

Photo-Me raises dividend by 8%

By JONATHAN PRYNN

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Photo-Me International, the world's largest maker of photo-booths, inched forward to £8.7 million from £8.5 million during the six months to the end of October.

The pre-tax figure was struck after foreign exchange losses of £123,000 compared with a £875,000 loss for the previous first half-year. The depreciation charge increased from £4.1 million to £5.6 million.

David Miller, the group managing director, described the result as creditable at a time of worldwide recession. The company predicted that profits for the year as a whole would be comparable to the £17.1 million achieved last year. This would result in an improvement in attributable profits, assuming no further material movements in exchange rates, Mr Miller said.

Turnover for the period rose 15 per cent to £62.2 million. The interim dividend is increased by 8 per cent to 1.3p (1.2p) and will be paid from earnings of 9.37p (7.81p).

The company also announced a change in accounting policy on goodwill. From now, all goodwill is to be written off in the year in which it occurs. The write-off in the current year will include goodwill carried forward of £4.5 million, together with further goodwill arising from the acquisition of interests in the French and Belgian subsidiaries last June. The shares rose 6p to 306p.



Miller: creditable result

Vosper to shed 350 jobs

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

VOSPER Thornycroft, the Southampton warship builder, is to shed 350 workers. The company blamed Ministry of Defence delays in ordering Sandown-class minehunters and the Saudi government's delay in ordering a fourth minehunter under its Al Yamamah defence programme.

Vosper's workforce, now standing at 1,900, was trimmed by 200 last year. The company recently lost a £400 million contract to build three Type-23 frigates for the Royal Navy to the General Electric Company's Yarrow yard on Clydeside.

The Southampton yard's medium-term order book should be secured, however, by an expected contract to build two corvettes for Oman, which will be worth at least £150 million. The jobs losses will be split between the workers at Vosper's glass reinforced plastic shipbuilding yard on the River Itchen at Woolston and those at the company's support unit at Portchester, Hants.

Martin Jay, Vosper's managing director, said: "We are obviously very sad to have to make this announcement today, but the reduced GRP workload forces us to take this step."

John Simmons, the chairman of the joint trade unions at Vosper, called for more government help for the industry to stave off further job losses.

"Money is needed to develop other products and keep people employed," Mr Simmons said. "There is a need to keep the community together. The job losses are a tragedy for Southampton."



Challenging government: Morgan wants 'sacred cows' distanced from political control

Privatise motorways and buildings, IoD chief urges

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A CALL for the privatisation of motorways and government buildings was issued yesterday by Peter Morgan, the director general of the Institute of Directors.

Mr Morgan appealed for the government to place them next on its "for sale" list, after British Rail, British Coal and postal services. He also urged ministers to find ways of distancing "sacred cows" such as the BBC, the health service and education from political control.

"The NHS is just another producer-dominated monopoly - another nationalised industry," Mr Morgan told institute members in Belfast. Nationalised institutions were "political and not commercial entities. They respond to political and not economic pressure."

He added: "Financing the public sector is not decided by customer demand or the evaluation of capital markets. It depends upon political assessment of what the public will bear, resources available at a point in the economic cycle, and the political pull of the minister and his civil servants."

Distancing more public institutions from political control would ensure they were more responsive to their customers, he said. The organisation's call for further substitution of market forces for political judgement is unsurprising, but it does indicate that right-wing intellectuals will expect further reductions in the role of the state if the Conservatives win the election.

Mr Morgan also challenged the government to use its presidency of the European Community during the latter half of this year to put privatisation on the agenda of the European market. "You cannot have a free market in Europe while nationalisation persists and while uncommercial behaviour of nationalised banks introduces double distortion into public sector subsidies," he said.

EC and Russians seek to resolve aluminium dispute

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission completed an initial round of talks with Russian officials aimed at stemming the flow of aluminium into the EC from the former Soviet republic.

President Yeltsin has decreed that the amount of metal supplied by smelters to Russia's construction industry in the first quarter of the year must be at least 70 per cent of that delivered in the same period last year.

Russian aluminium exports to the West soared to over 1 million tonnes last year, from 300,000 in 1990. That precipitated a catastrophic fall in prices. In September, 1990, aluminium was selling for \$2,100 a tonne on the London metal exchange; by last October, its price had fallen to between \$1,100 and \$1,200 a tonne.

Panfida calls in liquidator

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

THE price is about half what it was, and the European industry cannot survive much longer, a commission official said yesterday. He said the commission hoped to find "a solution other than quotas" with the Russians, but "special measures" might have to be taken.

PANFIDA, the Australian convenience retailer that owns the Martin newsagents chain, has finally given up its battle against a mountain of debt and asked for a liquidator to be appointed. Panfida shares were suspended at 2.5p just before the announcement.

According to commission figures, smelting capacity in Britain will be reduced to 70,000 tonnes this year and the community's overall capacity will slip to about 1.5 million tonnes - a quarter of the 1988 level.

The move will not affect Martin Retail Group, the main surviving subsidiary, which was separately financed and is now effectively owned by its banks.

The official said aluminium companies in the community needed an average price of \$1,500 to break even and closures were expected this year.

On January 17, Panfida revealed that a refinancing plan announced in September to convert debt into equity had collapsed.

The Russian aluminium producer, Concernalumi, has boosted sales to the West in response to President Yeltsin's demand for increased foreign currency earnings.

In the year to end-June, the group's overall loss increased from £7 million to £28 million, mainly due to extraordinary losses inflated by accounting changes.

Calling for an extension of the privatisation programme, Mr Morgan questioned the need for governments to tie up taxpayers' money in property. "There is plenty of private capital available in the property companies and the government should rent like everyone else."

Martin Retail Group made a £13 million profit before interest and a £1 million loss after interest. It said subsequent trading had been satisfactory but below budget.

However, another commission official said quotas were "politically unacceptable" at the moment. There were signs that Russian production would slacken.

MRC said there was no inter-company debt between itself and Panfida and that MRC was now effectively owned by the syndicate of banks that provides its medium-term debt and working capital.



Third Quarter Results

Results for third quarter and nine months to 31 December, 1991

	Third quarter 3 months ended 31 December (unaudited)		Cumulative 9 months ended 31 December (unaudited)	
	1991	1990	1991	1990
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Turnover	3,292	3,278	9,924	9,753
Operating profit	831	880	2,611	2,632
Profit before tax	759	787	2,369	2,319
Profit after tax	512	531	1,599	1,565
Earnings per share	8.2p	8.6p	25.6p	25.4p

"In the announcement of the half year's results, I said that near term prospects would be depressed by competitive and regulatory pressures in the absence of any significant growth in turnover. In the event, turnover in the third quarter was almost flat, as there was insufficient growth in the economy to offset competitive pressures and the first full quarter's impact of the new and tougher price cap of RPI minus 6.25 per cent.

In the third quarter our continued pursuit of productivity, as well as quality improvements held the decline in earnings per share to 4.6 per cent. Growth in earnings for the nine months was one per cent. Near term prospects remain depressed."

Jain Vallance
Chairman

30 January, 1992

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The boardroom curse that lurks . . . a Stamford Bridge too far

Football may be back in fashion but, as Matthew Bond reports, for businessmen it continues to be a knockout competition



Manchester United to Millwall, from Tottenham to Hibernian, it is abundantly clear that corporate football and corporate finance simply do not mix.

As City sages know, when business leads to football, what often follows is disaster

imaginative, number-crunching colleague: it ranks above personal number plates, the London *plaid* and the private helicopter.

prompt a serious career setback, Mr Maxwell's relentless enthusiasm for football clubs had made a spectacular departure a certainty. Not content with buying Oxford United, where he later installed his unfortunate son Kevin, Mr Maxwell went on to buy Derby County and at various times attempted to buy Reading, Watford, Manchester United and, just a few months before his death, Tottenham Hotspur.

Sadly Mr Maxwell's is not the only death to have been brought on by a surfeit of football clubs. Five years ago David Bulstrode, in his capacity as chairman of Marler Estates, became the owner of two London football clubs and three grounds when Marler added Queens Park Rangers to a portfolio that already included Fulham as well as Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground. It was clearly a football club too far, even for the likeable Mr Bulstrode. Just 18 months later Mr Bulstrode unexpectedly departed to the great grandstand in the sky. The curse had struck again.

Robert Noonan, Marler's chief executive, was not one to ignore such powerful signals. Within six months, QPR was sold to David Thompson, co-founder of the Hillsdown Holdings empire: Marler was taken over by John Duggan's Cabra Holdings and Mr Noonan departed some £15 million the richer. Mr Thompson also wisely left nothing to fate and confirmed his son Richard

For touch players in the City, a boardroom involvement in football is a strong sell signal

and saviour of Tottenham Hotspur, will certainly be hoping so. Like Mr Duggan, Mr Sugar clearly believes that a certain emotional detachment from the game's all too consuming passions will see him through. So far this emotional detachment has involved seeing off the aggregated might of Robert Maxwell, Irving Scholar, Tony Berry and Paul Bobroff, and seen Mr Sugar commit £13 million of his personal fortune to the club. One wonders what will happen should he ever get emotionally involved.

Which just happens to own one," Mr Sugar said recently, apparently ignoring the ghastly precedents set by clubs that have diversified into other areas. Two months ago Reg Burr's Millwall Holdings unveiled a £2.7 million loss, having bought a pub chain for £10 million in January 1990, only to sell it 19 loss-making months later for £2.4 million.

While Millwall has problems both on and off the pitch, David Murray appears to be enjoying some success with Rangers, bought for £6 million in 1988. Off the pitch he has proved a little less fortunate, losing over £4 million on the short-lived *Sunday Scot* newspaper last year. A gentle warning, perhaps?

No horrors from Carsberg

The market's relief that Sir Bryan Carsberg's latest brace of green papers has not produced any real horrors to upset BT is probably overdue. The regulator may have made some threatening noises in the past over one-off price cuts, a more fair split of the benefits of years of cost-cutting between shareholders and customers or even a complete break-up.

But none of these were really in the frame, not least for political reasons given the millions tempted into BT by the recent share issue and still nursing scant profits. The most likely main outcome to the regulatory review, as indicated by Sir Bryan himself, remains a simple adjustment of the so-called X-factor governing the relationship between retail price inflation and BT's tariff rises.

There is no indication anywhere in the green papers that Sir Bryan shares some of the more extreme views of BT as a profiteer abusing a near-monopoly. He says BT's return on capital employed for 1992-93, if the existing price cap were to continue at RPI minus 6.25, would be 20 per cent, ahead of the level forecast when the formula was put in place.

Meanwhile returns are currently running about 2 per cent ahead of OFTEL's forecasts. But this is blamed on higher than expected inflation rather than any intrinsic financial outperformance.

BT itself has apparently taken the view that all this concentration on return on capital employed presages a further tightening of the regulatory screw, to judge from an apparently defensive insistence that annualised rates of return fell 3 per cent in the third quarter.

But Sir Bryan has rejected a regulatory regime based on rate of return, while accepting that BT's level of profitability may be overstated by its reliance on historic cost accounting. These are hardly the words of a regulator who is planning a crowd-pleasing onslaught on what is still one of the least popular corporations in Britain today.

Gas pressure

Clearing the way for importation of natural gas was long overdue. The original logic of banning imports in order to promote development of British offshore gas fields is no longer the Government's top priority. These days, promoting competition for the dominant supplier, British Gas, has become the prime objective. In any case, unless the import barriers came down, domestic supplies would eventually have become tight. But the new approach which was detailed yesterday has other benefits too. Germany has already started to receive supplies of cheap gas from the former Soviet Union. There is a great deal more available and the Russians are keen to extend the trade in search of much needed hard currency earnings. Britain's more liberal policy toward cross-border trade in energy is an essential part of any EC plans to develop free trade in gas eventually through a pan European grid system.

In the long run, cheap Russian gas ought to be available to Britain either through British Gas or the growing number of companies keen to compete in the market for industrial gas. For the moment though the government is looking at a proposal to build a pipeline for the export of gas in the opposite direction.

Meanwhile, allowing imports will certainly speed up the development of clean burn gas fired power stations and help the Government in its aim of reducing British Gas's share of the industrial market from around three-quarters to 40 per cent. Like BT, the future is looking tougher for British Gas.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Duckett joins Milne's team

OLD times are back at SG Warburg Securities where Duncan Duckett, doyen of investment trusts in the Square Mile, is poised to join Garth Milne's highly regarded team. But his departure will inevitably leave a sizeable hole in the management at Marshall & Co, the small stockbroker, which is in negotiations to buy itself out from Lombard, Odier, its Swiss bank parent, and hopes to refocus on smaller companies. Duckett, deputy chairman of Marshall for the past five years, will be reunited with Roger Adams, whom he has known since their days as jobbers at Pinchin Deeny, "We've been expanding and were looking for a very experienced pair of hands to help out," says Milne, who led his team to Warburgs from Laing & Crutchfield at the time of Big Bang. Meanwhile, it emerges that Tim Sinclair, who left BZW last autumn, joins Panmure Gordon on Monday to head its investment trust team.

Desai's change

AFTER five years as an options broker, anyone would be ready for a change of scenery. So it is for Raj Desai, a member of James Capel's top Exel-rated options team since 1987, who works his last day today before leaving to set up a private investment company. "I thought it was time to try something new," says Desai, aged 30, who will be running a futures fund for private clients using some of the know-how he has picked up in the market. City regula-



"Don't complain to me - complain to OfTel!"

Export line

BRIAN Willott, chief executive of the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), the government body that provides medium and long-term credit insurance for the nation's exporters, faced the press for the first time yesterday and found he still has a lot to learn. Discussing the ECGD's financial reports for the past year, he was asked if it was true that two of his staff had visited Iran last November. Willott quickly turned to an aide and was heard to enquire: "Have they come back yet?"

Locked in

THE Lanesborough Hotel at Hyde Park Corner, opened at a cost of £100 million, has everything a guest could desire. Or does it? Despite spending a fortune convert-

ing the former St George's hospital into a model of Regency grandeur, the designers of the £190-a-night hotel have discovered they are only human after all. On Wednesday evening, a top executive, known in London corporate hospitality circles, was trapped in the Ladies powder room for 20 minutes. "I locked the door, only to find the handle to open it was missing," says the victim, who had been dining in the restaurant. "I was surprised there were no attendants on hand." The hotel says the fault has been corrected.

Thomas the tanker

DAVID Hockney, the Yorkshire-born artist who lives in Los Angeles, ranks as one of Bradford's most famous sons. Now, one of his two elder brothers is making an equally big impression on the business world. Phil Hockney, who emigrated to Australia in 1961 and runs his own engineering company in Sydney, claims to have designed the petrol transporter of the future - a 17-metre beast capable of carrying 47,000 litres of petrol. Tankers on British roads never go much above 36,000 litres. Orders for 50 of the trucks, which have a low wheelbase, making them less likely to roll over, have come from as far afield as America and Japan. And while Hockney may be a naturalised Australian, he has not forgotten his British childhood. He has called the vehicle "tanker having optimum mass and stability" - or Thomas the tanker for short.

JON ASHWORTH

Phasing out mortgage tax relief to boost the housing market

From Mr N.H. Lee

Sir, We do not need Mr Norman Lamont to be radical in his approach to housing as Mr Kalesky suggests in his article (Economic View, January 27), merely sensible and even-handed.

Mortgage tax relief appears to favour owner occupiers at the expense of both tenants and the landlords of residential property.

In the long run, the advantage is more apparent than real since the relief given works through to higher house prices.

An agreement between all the political parties to phase out mortgage tax relief

would progressively release the £8 billion for housing investment, including perhaps some small incentives to investors in Homes to Let.

The advantages to individual families and to the national economy of a housing market that provides to everyone a real choice between buying and renting are too obvious to be re-stated.

Yours faithfully, NEVILLE H. LEE (Council Member, Association of Residential Letting Agents), 18-21 Jermyn Street, SW1.

Informing shareholders of their rights

From Mr Donald Butcher

Sir, I wish to strongly support, as a private shareholder, the views expressed by Dr Maurice Gillibrand (Business Letters, January 23) concerning the use of shareholders' funds.

His practical approach in drawing the attention of shareholders to the relevance of Section 312 of the Companies Act is just what is needed to begin the enormous task of informing the millions of new shareholders about their ownership role and their responsibilities.

This is especially important in the light of the increasing concern being rightly expressed about the shortcomings of corporate governance and the near total dominance of the role of non-executive directors in that debate - important as that may be.

However, it is the shareholders' funds which suffer

the effects of bad governance and the funds are fast being depleted in many companies, not only by the compensation practices which Dr Gillibrand draws attention to, but also by bad management.

Your more alert private shareholder readers will know very well which companies come in the latter category - often quite as well as the institutional shareholders.

The new Share Ownership Movement intends, I understand, to give high priority to educating/training private shareholders in their role vis-à-vis their companies and will, I hope, get the support of all private shareholders.

Yours faithfully, D. B. BUTCHER (Management and Engineering Consultant), 12 Burgh Heath Road, Epsom, Surrey.

Rubbish on offer

From Mrs C. Sanders

Sir, Consumer confidence in steep decline (January 29)? Rubbish. Which is exactly what is being offered to us.

Blinkered buyers, intimidated by fashion "experts", load their hapless colleagues with dull, dreary, dreadfully designed clothing and house-wares, expecting them to market and sell this stuff.

Consumers are being treated as though they have crawled from under some unsavoury stone and the best course of action would be to return as unobtrusively as possible.

Continuing to follow the examples and attitudes of their superiors, these assistants then contemptuously draw the stock phrase that the colour or style wanted is out of fashion - a more laudable response to requests for classic styles and ordinary colours is impossible to imagine. I suggest a panel of non-executive buyers, properly representative of all hoped-for consumers, should be part of the selection process before goods are ordered.

I know the blame for the recession will eventually end up with me - after world economies wage increases, inefficient work practices, etc have been exhausted. I take comfort in the fact that I keep my cash and do not contribute to excessive executive salaries.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTINE SANDERS, Danean Rise, 15 West Road, Barton Stacey, Hampshire.

Pet appeal

From Mr E.M. Straw

"A value growth last year of more than 8 per cent." (Petfood firms, January 27). Maybe humans aren't just buying it.

Yours faithfully, ERIC M. STRAW, Nordentrasse 30c, 6000 Frankfurt/Main 1, Germany.

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SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

Growth slackens in the first quarter

Interim report on the first quarter (1 October to 31 December 1991) of the fiscal year 1992.

Following strong expansion of Siemens' business last year, the first quarter was marked by slower growth. This was due to both the exceptional upsurge in business in the same period last year and current downward trends in the world economy. Demand, particularly for our standard industrial products, remained weak. Some operating groups also have been affected by slackening demand in Germany as well as in international markets. Orders were marginally lower than last year, but sales rose 6%. Income after taxes also increased 6% to DM398 million.

Orders

Siemens, comprising Siemens AG and its consolidated domestic and international companies, booked orders totaling DM20.1 billion (1991: DM20.4 billion) in the period under review. Orders failed to match last year's high volume when the Public Communication Networks, Power Generation (KWU) and Transportation Systems groups won a series of major contracts, mostly from international customers. This largely explains the 5% decrease in international orders. Domestic orders, however, grew a further 4%. Virtually all Siemens operating

groups have been affected by weaker international demand for standard products. Demand is slackening in some sectors in Germany, as well.

DM billion	1/10/90 to 31/12/90	1/10/91 to 31/12/91	Change
Orders	20.4	20.1	-1%
Domestic business	8.8	9.1	+4%
International business	11.6	11.0	-5%

Sales

Sales rose 6% to DM16.2 billion (1991: DM15.4 billion). Here too, domestic growth was stronger; sales rose 9% to DM7.6 billion (1991: DM7.0 billion) compared with a 3% increase in international sales to DM8.6 billion (1991: DM8.4 billion). Due to the upsurge in the volume of orders last year, Siemens expects sales for the whole of fiscal year 1992 to expand around 10% to more than DM80 billion.

DM billion	1/10/90 to 31/12/90	1/10/91 to 31/12/91	Change
Sales	15.4	16.2	+6%
Domestic business	7.0	7.6	+9%
International business	8.4	8.6	+3%

Employees

The number of employees reached a new high of around 419,000 on 31 December 1991. The work force grew 17,000 or 4% compared with the end of fiscal year 1991 which ended September 30. This was mainly due to the consolidation of new companies in eastern Germany. The increase more than offset adjustments in employment levels in various operating groups. Personnel costs rose 13% to DM8.2 billion (1991: DM7.2 billion).

in thousands	30/9/91	31/12/91	Change
Employees	402	419	+4%
Domestic operations	243	260	+7%
International operations	159	159	0%

DM billion	1/10/90 to 31/12/90	1/10/91 to 31/12/91	Change
Personnel costs	7.2	8.2	+13%

Without temporary student workers and trainees

Capital spending and net income

Capital spending in the period under review reached DM2.2 billion (1991: DM0.9 billion). This exceptional rise is due above all to an increased investment in Siemens Nixdorf Informationssysteme AG, the acquisition of the industrial controls activities of Texas Instruments, Inc., Dallas, Texas, and higher capital expenditure on property, plant and equipment. Net income after taxes rose 6% to DM398 million (1991: DM377 million).

DM billion	1/10/90 to 31/12/90	1/10/91 to 31/12/91	Change
Capital expenditure and investments	0.9	2.2	+134%
Net income after taxes	377	398	+6%

unaudited accounts

Siemens AG, Berlin and Munich

Redundancies to reach 8,000

Loss-making Usinor increases number of jobs to be cut

By Wolfgang Münchau, European Business Correspondent

USINOR Sidor, the French steel maker, will shed 8,000 jobs by the end of 1994.

The job losses are 1,300 more than previously expected and highlight the growing difficulties for the European steel industry.

News of the redundancies, which form part of a rationalisation drive, came just after Usinor, Europe's largest steel maker, announced a Fr3.1 billion net loss for 1991, compared with last time's Fr3.5 billion profit.

Francis Mer, the chair-

man, said: "We are practically certain to make money in terms of our net results this year, which will probably not see an improvement in the economy." The scale of the 1991 losses was a direct result of an unspecified charge for restructuring, as well as a Fr1.6 billion charge earmarked for redundancy payments. On an operating level, Usinor achieved a modest Fr400 million surplus, compared with Fr4.4 billion in 1990.

Last year was one of the

worst in recent memory for the European steel industry, which has been hit by a price war in response to industry-wide overcapacity. British Steel, Europe's second-largest steel maker, is to close the Ravenscraig steel plant in Scotland, while Krupp and Hoesch, two of the largest steel makers in Germany, are negotiating a merger that will also result in large redundancies.

M. Mer said that the French steel industry needed overall economic growth of about 2.5 per cent in order to increase sales volumes, but the return to such levels of economic growth would not happen before 1993. Last year, world steel output fell 4.5 per cent.

Most redundancies will occur in France, where the workforce is set to fall to 51,500 by 1994, against 58,690 in 1990, after the planned closure of four steel works.

At the end of last year, the European Commission gave the go-ahead for a plan by Crédit Lyonnais, the state-owned French bank, to inject Fr2.5 billion in new capital into Usinor in return for a 10 per cent stake. The commission had investigated the deal on suspicions that the capital injection could amount to disguised state aid. The clearance of the Crédit Lyonnais stake was heavily criticised by other European steel makers, including British Steel.

However, Usinor received some good news yesterday from Moody's Investors Service, the American credit rating agency, which allocated the top prime-one rating to Usinor's Fr10 billion commercial paper programme. Commercial paper is a form of short-term debt, normally with a maturity of up to one year. Moody said the rating reflected the company's position as Europe's largest steel maker and its determination to improve productivity.

AIM flies high with a 70% lift

By Philip Pangalos

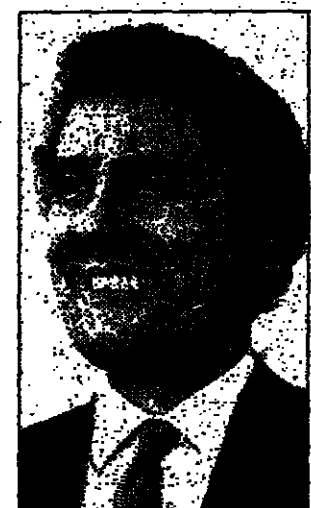
FIRST-half profits at AIM Group, a manufacturer of aircraft interiors, soared by 70 per cent. The pre-tax figure rose from £620,000 to £1.05 million in the six months to October 31, on turnover 25.8 per cent ahead at £25.2 million.

Operating profits from the aviation and engineering division jumped by 67 per cent to £1.71 million, on turnover 29 per cent higher at £19 million.

AIM has enjoyed success on the Saab 2000 civil aircraft project and has also received a boost from the award of a \$16 million contract to supply interior parts for the Boeing 767 aircraft over five years.

Jeff Smith, chairman, expects continued progress from the aviation division. The group's broad spread of customers helped to insulate it from civil aviation cut-backs and delays.

More importantly, greater benefits lie ahead as aircraft manufacturers move towards sourcing components from outside contractors. "In the



Smith: benefits ahead industry as a whole, there is a greater trend for manufacturers to out-source," Mr Smith said. "That's an add-on to our marketplace."

Contracting profits fell from £319,000 to £22,000, although an improvement is expected in the second half.

Earnings per share rose to 4.8p (2.8p). The interim dividend has been maintained at 1.5p.

Airline is auctioned for \$419m

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

A CONSORTIUM of Philippine business groups bought the state-owned Philippine Airlines for \$419 million at a public auction. The floor price, set by the government, minutes before bidding took place, was \$319 million.

There are two components in the winning bid by AB Capital Investment Corporation: a cash payment of \$150 million and the balance in Philippine debt paper.

Jesus Esanislao, finance secretary who presided over the bidding, said: "I am very pleased. This is more than we expected." The sale represented 67 per cent of the government's interest in the airline. The government's stake is now 13 per cent. The other 20 per cent is owned by the pension fund for state employees.

The consortium has engaged Korean Airlines as technical adviser in managing Philippine Airlines.

MINING

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI), the South African mining house, reported net attributable profits of R190.6 million (£38 million) for the six months to end-December, against R189.1 million a year ago, and declared an unchanged interim dividend of 42 cents.

Renison Goldfields Consolidated, the Australian mining group in which Hanson holds a 40 per cent interest, said the continuing recession in America and Europe was keeping markets for mineral sands depressed. RGC said it would therefore close temporarily the south and west divisions of its Eneabba mine and reopen the north section.

Conroy Petroleum and Natural Resources, the Irish-based group that faces a motion from two big shareholders that its entire board be removed at the February 8 egn, said the two dissident shareholders were "an unholy alliance... acting in their own interests".

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Enforcing damage limitation

Matthew May on advertisements that point out the risks of working on computer screens

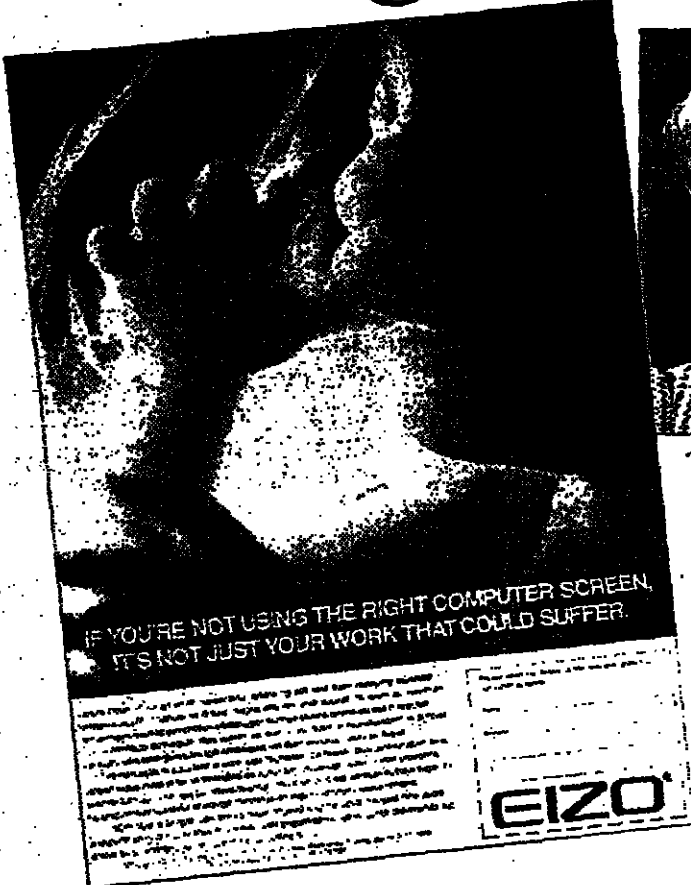
Controversial advertisements are not just the province of Benetton. One that you will not be seeing any more shows a fetus for the words: "If you're not using the right computer screen, it's not just your work that could suffer."

The company concerned, Eizo, says computer screens which it claims "have been proved to emit very low levels of the type of radiation that is believed to be potentially harmful".

The claim that radiation from computer screens may increase the risk of miscarriages and cause other ills is one of the most controversial in an already confused field. Conflicting research studies and varying regulations in Europe have left computer users and employers facing a barrage of information from companies adding their own view of what is and what is not safe in prolonged use of computer screens.

Last month, the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) complained to Eizo about the advertisement and was assured there were plans to use it again.

"It would be irresponsible to give misleading view of the risks from display screen use in the hope of gaining commercial advantage. All display screens on sale conform to current technical requirements," the commission says.



That view was echoed in the ten complaints about the advertisement — four from computer companies — received by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), which is due to announce its findings next month.

Bob Raikes, managing director of Eizo, says: "We believe that in this present climate of uncertainty, when the evidence is not yet conclusive, it is only prudent to

limit all identifiable hazards." The commission is particularly concerned about computers as it is having to prepare regulations that will ensure Britain conforms to an European Commission directive on the minimum safety and health requirements for work with display screens that must be incorporated into the laws of member countries by the end of the year.

After 1996 any equipment not conforming to these minimum



The controversial advertisement, and, above (left to right), Angela McSherry, Diane Davies, and Kim Dowling, who won a case against British Telecom for pain and suffering due to RSI injury at work

requirements will have to be replaced. Last week the HSC announced its draft proposals aimed particularly at reducing what are becoming everyday problems, such as repetitive strain injury (RSI), eye problems and general stress.

They include a requirement for employers to assess and reduce any risks from working with computer screens, to provide regular breaks or changes in activity from working on screens and to provide free eye tests and buy special glasses where needed.

The TUC welcomes the proposals as a step in the right direction, but has warned that they are not strong enough and that many workers using computers could continue to face avoidable health risks.

The idea that a modern office is safe and healthy is being dismissed, says Dr Leslie Hawkins, head of the occupational health unit at the University of Surrey. "Apart from RSI there is a lot of low-grade

illness, especially with heavy use of computer screens.

"In a way these proposals are sensible because they are pragmatic. If you impose requirements that are too stringent, they can be impossible to attain or police."

A development in this area is the success the unions are having in taking employers to court over cases of RSI, culminating in the awards made last month to British Telecom keyboard operators that could open the door to the settlement of hundreds of other cases.

On Wednesday an industrial tribunal approved an award of £5,500 for unfair dismissal to Denise Burgess, a secretary who was dismissed after developing RSI.

However, these cases have little to do with the brand of computer being used and far more to do with the working methods and ergonomic factors, such as the design of chairs and sitting posture.

"Even those studies that claim pregnant women who work with a computer screen may run an increased risk of miscarriage have not identified radiation as the problem," Dr Hawkins says.

Wise Technology is one of the four computer companies that complained to the ASA over the fetus advertisement.

"We believe that the advertisement was misleading and scaremongering," says Mark Jordan, the company's general manager for Northern Europe. "There is no point in buying low-emission equipment if you do not examine the rest of your office, such as the lighting and seating."

What has spurred companies such as Wise into producing low-emission equipment is that Scandinavian countries, and in particular Sweden, have strict guidelines.

"The Swedes' attitude is that they do not wait until something is proved dangerous, but will take precautions unless it is deemed to be safe," Mr Jordan says.

Apple bites into IBM

IBM's share of the personal computer market declined slightly to 14.8 per cent last year and Apple Computer increased its share by 2 per cent to 10.7 per cent. Workstations showed the most positive results, with revenues jumping 15 per cent.

But the recession and price wars saw worldwide revenues for the computer industry drop last year, for the first time since 1983, by almost 8 per cent, says Dataquest, the research company.

"We can expect to see further cost-cutting measures and restructuring from vendors in 1992," says Nancy Stewart, of Dataquest.

Winding-up

THE co-ordinating committee for multilateral export controls, set up to stop the export of sensitive technology from the West, meets in Paris next week to decide whether or not to wind itself up because of the demise of communism in Eastern Europe.

Mutant villain



A POWERFUL computer virus, known as Michaelangelo, is lurking in up to 500 new personal computers on sale in the US. The virus is programmed to erase hard discs on March 6, the artist's birthday. The manufacturer, Leading Edge, says it will send customers special software programs aimed at tracking and eradicating computer viruses.

Pile 'em high

FOLLOWING the opening of Britain's first computer supermarket, three more are expected to open this year, say researchers at Romtec.

PC World, in Croydon, south London, claims to offer goods at "near mail-order prices". Thousands of computers and software packages are crammed into shopping aisles.



Waste paper: Sharon Hannan, who works for Southwark, south London, with computerised poll tax forms

Poll tax rulings go deep

Court decisions ruling that council computer records are inadmissible evidence in poll tax cases could have much deeper significance. The decisions will affect many organisations that have become dependent on computerised records for information processing.

In civil proceedings, computer records are often classed under the "hearsay rule", making them inadmissible. Whether such records fall under this rule, however, depends on the context and reason for using evidence. The Civil Evidence Act 1968 sets down conditions for the admissibility of computer records. For example, an organisation has to prove

Some organisations dependent on computer records feel at risk

that at the time a record was produced the computer was "operating properly".

In criminal cases, admissibility is subject to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the Criminal Justice Act 1988, which contain similar requirements to those in civil proceedings.

The main criticism of the conditions is that they were enacted when mainframe processors dominated the market. The spread of personal computers has made such conditions seem unnecessarily stringent. Technology has developed to a stage

that suggests that computers should be considered as reliable as paper records.

In addition, proving that the conditions have been met requires oral testimony or a signed statement from a person occupying "a responsible position in relation to the management of the activities for the purposes of which the computer was used". This is potentially difficult in an age of distributed processing through a data communications network.

The 1968 act seems to confuse the value of computer evidence with whether such evidence is admissible at all.

Since this act was passed, the legal profession has criticised the drafting of the computer provisions. For example, the statutory conditions have to be satisfied only when the record is produced, ignoring data input as the main source of fraud.

A recent Law Commission consultation paper considered the need to alter the legislation to reflect the position of computers in modern business more accurately. In the United States computer records are regarded as "business records".

Concern has increased with the growth of electronic trading and other electronic messaging. The uncertainty over admissibility of computer-based records has made some organisations feel legally insecure. Users fear that existing conditions could eventually restrict the spread of such computerisation.

IAN WALDEN

● The author is a research fellow in information technology at Nottingham Law School

See you on the phone

Video-conferences may have the potential to cut company expenditure on air fares, but they are so complex and expensive to set up that few organisations are making use of the technology.

The problem is that a video signal requires about 500 times more telephone-line capacity than an ordinary call. To take part in video-conferences, companies must either rent permanent high-capacity lines between the locations to be linked, or book connections days in advance.

Now a development from Mercury Communications should make international video-conferences cheaper and easier by giving subscribers a direct link to a high-capacity telecommunications network at the touch of a button. Video-conferences can be arranged in seconds, and users pay only for the time that they are on the line.

Last week, an international group met in London to begin setting up a worldwide service based on the Mercury technology, including the United States, Japan, and much of the rest of Asia and Europe.

"Subscribers to the push-button service could have a spontaneous video-conference with New York one day,

Jane Bird dials up tomorrow's televisual developments

Geneva the next, then Japan or Sydney. Or they could link up with all four at once," says Jeff Maynard, Mercury's development director.

The technology could be used for many more applications, including music, graphics and three-dimensional imaging systems.

"A designer working on a new car in the UK could transmit his latest computer drawings to his co-designers in Japan, where the drawings could be projected on to a large screen. If the Japanese wanted changes to the colour or the trim they could speak on the video link while pointing out the areas to be altered," Mr Maynard says.

The service, known as Mercury Switchband, is aimed at

large corporations. But costs will come down, and within five years it will be within the reach of small businesses, Mr Maynard believes.

The combination of interactive video and virtual reality will make possible many futuristic applications. Without leaving his office an estate agent will be able to take his clients inside houses, giving them the sensation of walking from room to room. Clients having a new house built will be able to experiment with different sizes and shapes of rooms, interior decor and furniture.

By the end of the decade, consumers should also be able to tap into these high-capacity networks, possibly through cable television circuits.

Film fans could project a movie onto the sitting-room wall in widescreen, three-dimensional colour with stereo sound and holographic images. They could even appear in the film, and alter the plot if they did not like the way the action was going.

Compaq switch on Lite.

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REED BUSINESS PUBLISHING GROUP

England struggling to recover from a poor start after being asked to bat in the second Test

New Zealand seize the initiative on a bowlers' pitch

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN AUCKLAND

THE psychology of playing on a poor pitch is never to consider the odds. Graham Gooch, suspecting the worst, had been preaching as much to his side for several days before this second Test match began and yet, four overs into the game, with England a sickly nine for three, his wise words seemed wasted.

It is true that almost anything constitutes a recovery after so dire a start. It is also true that 146 for seven hardly qualifies for a lap of honour. But by close of play last night England were at least back in the game, their destiny to some degree in their own hands.

Few Test matches begin with such a clear-cut case for winning the toss and bowling. Seldom, indeed, is the preparation of a pitch for a positive result quite so blatant. It was not only left green, it was also dark. If produced for a county game, it might easily have cost the home club 25 points after a visit from Harry Brind.

Gooch knew this yet was determined to avoid negative thoughts. When the morning rain eased and the lime-coloured pitch was unveiled, there were players who openly grimaced and shook their heads. Gooch was stoical. "You play on what you are given," he said. "The conditions are not so important as the way you play in them."

When the worst happened and the toss was lost it was time for such thoughts to be put into action. Instead, Gooch, Stewart and Smith

were out within eight balls, the total rooted on nine. Test matches have been won from less promising positions but, from then on, England were condemned to the sort of battle which never confronted them in Christchurch.

Gooch had taken his first delicate decision of the day in keeping faith with the men who won the first Test. Preferring Pringle to Lawrence was tactically contentious and a crushing blow for a man who had fought so hard to meet his fitness schedule for this match. Given what followed, however, it was seen to be the right selection, for the medium-paced Watson, in the Pringle role, was New Zealand's most effective bowler.

The dramatic damage, however, was done by the faster bowlers. A third of the day's overs had been lost to the weather but the sun was shining on another sparse crowd, when Morrison went past Gooch's outside edge twice in the opening over of the game. In his second, Morrison went one better, and the captain was on his way, out in single figures for the third successive innings and caught behind for a fifth.

The likeliest interpretation of a rare lean patch is that he is simply suffering the occasional fate of every opener by getting out to a sequence of very good balls.

Stewart's dismissal was perhaps more disappointing, for, by driving loosely outside off stump, he was out in a way which would rightly have been thought typical if he had

not so commendably eliminated the shot during his Christchurch century.

Robin Smith went first ball, to the third and much the best of Adam Parore's four catches. Moving down the leg side, Parore had to change direction as Cairns gained a big deflection, pad more involved than bat. He took the catch one-handed and at full stretch, in that instant quite probably confirming the end of Ian Smith's long Test career.

Parore and Cairns are two authentic Young Guns, men who will be around for years and might easily form the nucleus of an improved New Zealand side. Murphy's a third and he was four overs into his first Test spell when he struck with the wicket of Lamb, who played crookedly on the back foot and dragged the ball into his stumps.

Hick, meanwhile, was living dangerously. Patel had put him down at first slip off Watson, and when he reached 20 he was dropped again, by Cairns in the gully. Having been given one innocuous bouncer first ball, however, he was 20 overs into his innings before he received another. Such is his weakness against the short ball, that he smacked off his bat or neglect.

The back-foot defensive technique, or lack of it, did eventually bring his downfall, although he was arguably unlucky to go. Umpire Dunne upheld Cairns's leg-before-stump for one which seemed to be missing leg stump.

Reeve, never at ease but never less than tenacious, lasted 104 minutes, including another reprieve at slip, before Watson, returning for a long and impressive second spell, moved one away enough to take the edge.

Watson had at that stage taken one for nine in ten overs of unrelenting precision but he was tiring by the time his second wicket arrived, five overs from the close.

Lewis, who had battled with his usual élan, square-cut crisply against one of Watson's rare short balls and Cairns, at gully, took a stunningly sharp right-handed catch.

England were left with two consolation: the fact that if the missed catches had stuck they would by now have been fielding, and the reflection that first-day collapses are neither unknown nor terminal on this ground. Two years ago New Zealand were put in by India; from 85 for six they rallied to 391 and drew the game easily.

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are favourites to succeed Rice as provincial captain. (AFP) Leicestershire made a record loss of more than £69,000 last year, compared to a deficit of just over £18,000 in 1990. James Whitaker, the county's vice-captain, has been awarded a benefit in 1993.



Jump shot: Hick plays a bouncer one-handed with both feet off the ground

Border makes his point over Marsh's omission

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN PERTH

SO UPSET is Allan Border, the Australia captain, at the omission of his vice-captain and old clobber, Geoff Marsh, from the Australian side for the fifth and final Test match against India starting here tomorrow, that, by way of protest — a very explicit one, too — he stayed in Adelaide on Wednesday evening after the rest of his team had flown to Perth. By the time he rejoined them last night, they had had a day in the nets without him.

Border said in the West Indies last spring that, when the time came for Marsh and Boon to go, he would go with them. He is a great believer in solidarity, some would say at the expense of younger players knocking at the door, and to see his side being split up close is not at all to his liking. It is no bad news for England, though.

Border fought hard to save Mark Waugh's place, as well as Marsh's, but the Australian selectors — Laurie Sawle, John Benaud and Jim Higgs — having just seen Australia fortunate to escape with a draw in Sydney, and lucky to win in

Adelaide, thought they detected complacency and insisted on making changes.

Marsh is not complaining. He knows that his recent Test record — one hundred in his last 75 innings — is simply not good enough and that, like Waugh, he is almost sure to be back for the World Cup.

With so much being asked of all who take part at this level in Australia these days, it is hardly surprising that form that of the umpires as well as the players — suffers.

Pack, fly, sign in, practice, sleep, practice, match, practice, match, late-night finish, cannot unwind, cannot sleep, early flight, fasten seatbelts, where are we going? doesn't really matter. Sign in, unpack, practice, inter-coastal niggles, heatwave forecast, practice, match, low appeal, had decision, television replay, physio, pack, airport check-in, practise, hit by bouncer, bone chipped, physio, where's my helmet? send cheque to the bank, fasten seatbelts, unpack, practise, match, practice... it just goes on and on and on, and it is taking its toll.

Mark Waugh could be a victim of this whistle-stop existence; of all the wear and tear. The more sensitive a batsman's game, the more likely he is to be. The India captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, another touch player, had made hardly a run in two-and-a-half months in Australia until he kept his side in the hunt with his dazzling century on Wednesday.

It was the sort of pitch, parched and slow, that Indians and Pakistanis are brought up on and on which they can be so wonderfully inventive. It produced a result, which was what the Adelaide curator was hoping for after seven drawn Tests in his last eight, and an absorbing last day to the bargain.

Australia were finally rescued from defeat by the strength of Craig McDermott's bowling. Since coming back into the Australia side a year ago, after more than two years on the sidelines, he has taken 70 wickets in 11 Tests.

At that rate, as long as he avoids the cricketer's equivalent of metal fatigue, he will have 600 by the end of the decade.

Richardson goes into lead with a flawless round

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN BANGKOK

STEVEN Richardson started this year's PGA European Tour season yesterday in much the same form that he maintained throughout most of 1991 by producing a spectacular 63 to lead the field in the Asian Classic on the Pinehurst course.

Severiano Ballesteros had a 65 to earn a share of second place alongside Mats Lanner, of Sweden, while Bernhard Langer and Ronan Rafferty are among a group on 67 in the tournament, sponsored by Johnnie Walker. Nick Faldo's 71 enabled him to be one of 100 players who broke par, although he had been hoping for a more encouraging start.

Richardson was in complete control on a course which is fast and largely uninteresting. He had nine birdies, no bogeys, and his one moment of concern came at the last hole where he had to get up and down from the back to save his par; he did so with the minimum of fuss.

His round, which equalled the course record, was a most impressive start. The young man from Hampshire said with a glint in his eye that he could not set himself a target for this year. To do so would mean a declaration that he is aiming to be No. 1 in the Volvo order of merit after finishing runner-up to Severiano Ballesteros last year. "I would be placing pressure on myself if I said that," he said.

He should not be concerned by such things, however. He provided every indication with this first round that he is on course for a memorable year, especially as he will be playing in all the major championships, starting with the Masters, to which Colin Montgomerie has now been invited. That will bring the number of Europeans at Augusta to ten.

Ballesteros, of course, will be one of them and, like Richardson, he has every reason to be happy about his start to the year. Even so, he revealed to all the result of a visit to a Thai doctor who specialises in back problems.

The treatment, quite bizarre, left the Spaniard with about ten burn marks on his back the size of beer mats. "He filled a plastic glass with alcohol, set fire to it, and placed the glass on my back," Ballesteros said. "It was extremely painful. He wanted me to go back for more treatment, but I won't be seeing him again."

The slow greens are not to the Spaniard's liking, and he holed only one putt in excess of ten feet. The quality of his striking emphasised that he has kept his swing well oiled this winter. A wonderful three-wood at the 14th left the ball ten feet from the cup and he coaxed it in for an eagle three.

Ballesteros had started from the tenth, turned in 32, and extracted three birdies from his next five holes. But he struggled over the closing stretch when he suffered from fatigue. He got up and down from the back of the green at the 7th hole — his 16th — and he saved par again with a superb recovery from a buried lie in a bunker at the 9th. Next year's U.S. PGA championship will be held at the Olympic Club, San Francisco, from October 29 to November 1. This year, it remains at Pinehurst, North Carolina.

AUCKLAND SCOREBOARD

New Zealand won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings				
	GS	4s	Min	Balls
*G A Gooch c Parore b Morrison	4	—	1	13
A J Stewart c Parore b Cairns	4	—	1	18
Eged attempted drive	—	—	—	—
G A Hick lbw Cairns	30	—	3	130
Trapped on back foot	—	—	—	—
R A Smith c Parore b Cairns	0	—	—	2
Played across late outswinger	—	—	—	—
A J Lamb bowled St	13	—	3	47
Played on attempting back-foot force	—	—	—	—
D A Reeve c Parore b Watson	22	—	2	104
Fencing at leg-cutter	—	—	—	—
C C Lewis c Cairns b Watson	33	—	6	89
Cut hard and low to right of gully	—	—	—	—
R C Russell not out	23	—	2	81
R R Pringle not out	8	—	1	21
Extras (lb 6, nb 3)	9	—	—	—
Total (7 wts, 59 overs, 256 min)	146	—	—	—

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9 (Gooch), 2-9 (Stewart), 3-9 (Smith), 4-31 (Lamb), 5-72 (Hick), 6-81 (Reeve), 7-128 (Lewis), 8-130 (Lamb), 9-132 (Watson), 10-132 (Watson), 11-132 (Watson), 12-132 (Watson), 13-132 (Watson), 14-132 (Watson), 15-132 (Watson), 16-132 (Watson), 17-132 (Watson), 18-132 (Watson), 19-132 (Watson), 20-132 (Watson), 21-132 (Watson), 22-132 (Watson), 23-132 (Watson), 24-132 (Watson), 25-132 (Watson), 26-132 (Watson), 27-132 (Watson), 28-132 (Watson), 29-132 (Watson), 30-132 (Watson), 31-132 (Watson), 32-132 (Watson), 33-132 (Watson), 34-132 (Watson), 35-132 (Watson), 36-132 (Watson), 37-132 (Watson), 38-132 (Watson), 39-132 (Watson), 40-132 (Watson), 41-132 (Watson), 42-132 (Watson), 43-132 (Watson), 44-132 (Watson), 45-132 (Watson), 46-132 (Watson), 47-132 (Watson), 48-132 (Watson), 49-132 (Watson), 50-132 (Watson), 51-132 (Watson), 52-132 (Watson), 53-132 (Watson), 54-132 (Watson), 55-132 (Watson), 56-132 (Watson), 57-132 (Watson), 58-132 (Watson), 59-132 (Watson), 60-132 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ARTS
Mark Gertler's
love for Dora
Carrington —
and his art

LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY JANUARY 31 1992

RK

HEALTH

Sunshine:
could more of
it help to save
your life?



Still kicking over the traces

MICHAEL POWELL

Age has not wearied Shirley MacLaine, the archetypal Californian, nor custom staled her infinite variety of passions, obsessions and right-on kookiness

Can it really be 33 years since I cut my hair in a fringe, having seen a picture of Shirley MacLaine in *Time* magazine? In 1959 they did a cover story on the new girls of Hollywood: Hope Lange, Tuesday Weld, etc. MacLaine's picture, captioned, "She's a look, but warm", showed a bohemian with the now familiar gamine haircut, and wearing blue jeans. No conventional starlet she. Already she had a mysterious husband, and a baby, who lived in Japan. It made her peculiarly interesting, and she has sustained that interest for three decades, enough to be forgiven for writing six books about herself (two of them extremely irritating) when books by actresses, with honourable exceptions, are generally to be discouraged.

Having waded through her last book about *Inner Transformation: Going Within*, with its cosmic forces and karma and chakras and tiresome California twaddle, it is a relief to find her earthbound in *Piccadilly* and disposed to laughter, even at herself. She is still in jeans, with a bright pink jacket

(rising 58) has not withered her, but has made her a remarkably good character actress who specialises in mothers of awkward daughters, and (her words) crabby old bats.

In the most recent film, *Postcards from the Edge*, she was the Debbie Reynolds mother figure to Meryl Streep's Carrie Fisher. Of Streep she says: "The woman was brilliant... For the first time in my life I felt I was possibly outclassed." (Not so.)

The filming left enough time to scribble her way through another book, *Dance While You Can*: the one is rooted in real life, which can be a bitch. When you're driving to the studio there's always a traffic jam on the freeway. Then you get to the make-up trailer and you vomit several times — readers are soon acquainted with MacLaine's innards, kidneys, nasal passages, knee-joints etc — and then you just get one leg into your tight jeans when there's a knock at the door: a boy delivering fruit, or flowers, or health food: never a moment's peace to spin one's chakra.

But such mundane realities of a movie-star's life: on set — the waiting, the weight-watching, the criticism — are very consoling. "Yeah," MacLaine says. "It's the principle behind tabloid journalism. Celebrities having troubles in their lives is what makes having no job and five kids worthwhile, right?"

She and her friend Kathleen Tynan — "We're married, you know. We've been together now longer than most marriages" — are working on a script about the actress Louise Brooks, who captivated Tynan's late husband Ken.

"Kathleen's in my house in Malibu now. It's a very interesting relationship. She's one of your left-brained English intellectuals and I'm one of these New Age, right-brained Americans." New Age — that old thing? "They call me the mother of New Age."

Mother again. Having mothered the ballet dancer in *The Turning Point*, which was her turning point, she mothered Debra Winger in *Terms of Endearment*, then Streep, she aged into the tyrannical Madame Sousatzka and was excellently cranky in *Steel Magnolias*. There is a recurring feature of these women's lives: the absent man. Rather like her own former husband, Steve Parker, wherever he is, now in his 70th year, "I can honestly say I've never really been married," she says. "I can admit it now, I stayed married so that I wouldn't get married. I had some wonderful relationships inside the marriage." Her affairs were deep, long and involved, because she was protected from the threat of marriage. "What always happened was that the man wanted to get married and I didn't. I think I did the exact match of her lipstick. Age

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When the going gets tough, the tough go and hug a tree: Shirley MacLaine, friend of the stars, the cosmos and Stephen Hawking

word that we must honour our father and mother, and she eulogises her. Yet her father was dissatisfied, harshly critical and given to lavatorial jokes; her mother (now aged 88) was the clinging sort, who made it clear that Warren was the favourite because men are superior to women. Such self-denying mothers are in fact the manipulative ones. "Oh yes, she was the prize mariachi. And I look at her now and I'm not as upset as I was about her negation of her own life, because she did exactly as she wanted to."

Her parents called her Shirley after Miss Temple. But nobody ever pronounced Shirley Beaty as they ought (it as "Batey"), so she took her mother's maiden name, McLean and, since nobody pronounced that properly either, renamed herself MacLaine. (Warren found it simpler just to add the extra L, and is mispronounced anyway.) She says she and Warren were driven towards stardom in order

not to disappoint their mother, and to refuse their father. "There was no way Warren and I would not become stars." Warren's new baby has been given their mother's name, Kathryn. The new (and surprised) aunt says the baby is "the cutest thing".

Talking of sexual athletics, we turn to the Bill Clinton affair. "What matters," MacLaine says, "is not what he's done, but his not acknowledging the women. It's not about sex, it's about attitudes to women. It's also about the public chastising of the press, for trading trash for cash."

"I think it's all very cathartic, even if it only makes us aware of how shallow we are. That's what Americans are all about: awareness. Not brushing things under the rug for the sake of tradition, which is the European way."

Americans and the British are, we reflect, like cats and dogs, a different species. Our feline self-containment, their upfront emo-

tional tail-wagging. This is what underlies British resistance to MacLaine's visions and levitations, her visits to psychic surgeons who can plunge a fist into one's abdomen without breaking the skin, or perform open heart surgery by means of trances.

She has seen such things in Brazil recently — with her friend Bella Abzug as witness — but these would sound too sensational. "It's called the divine hand of God," she says. The British think she is barking.

Only last night she had discovered, in an English magazine, a new way of meditating. "But you guys really do have a sense of undervaluing about self-reflection. You don't think you deserve to reflect on the self. You think it's self-indulgent and selfish. Self, self, self is a dirty word here. This polite English self-effacement. Oh, I'm all right, I'm fine, I'm fine."

She is right: her *Inner Transformation* seminars, \$300 a throw, sound like torture to me.

Meanwhile, her friendship with Professor Stephen Hawking, which began when she pursued him to Cambridge hoping he would endorse her theory about the loving harmonic energy of the universe, continues to blossom. She imitates Professor Hawking's voice machine, a basso profundo Dalek: "Please-forgive-my Eng-

lish-American-accent. I-am-so-glad-I-am-your-pinup."

"Strange, isn't it? He doesn't believe any of my stuff, and I don't know what he's talking about."

But she still rabbits on about "empowerment", and creating harmony. Okay, I said: start with those traffic jams on the freeways, where's the harmony? "You can look around you. Listen to an opera, or a book on cassette, that's very big now. A friend of mine met the woman he's going to marry in a traffic jam. Or you can reflect, why are you working in the city and not in the mountains? You have a fax, right? Maybe you could do different kinds of stories than coming to interview me."

'I stayed married so that I wouldn't get married. I had some wonderful relationships inside the marriage'

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"Strange, isn't it? He doesn't believe any of my stuff, and I don't know what he's talking about."

In one scene in *Postcards*, she is seen in a hospital bed, bald and make-up less, pathetic, vulnerable. Then she slaps on the eyelashes and blusher and trips off to face the press. In real life, when hassled or injured and asking why the hell she's doing this, she retreats to her home in Washington state, and hugs a tree. Then, back on stage, she sings Sondheim's "I'm Still Here".

Today she flies to Switzerland to sing with her band at a birthday party. Then maybe she will go back on the road, with her old friend Sinatra. Dancing while she can, again. Why? She has said that from the age of 12, she burned to know how the universe works "and the role I played in it". There is the answer. She is the centre of her world. "Show business", as she says, "is all about wanting to be loved, wanting to avoid rejection."

She asks, on page 275 of *Dance*, what she calls the great question. "Should I devote myself to the deeper questions and continue my seminars, my writing, and perhaps help people investigate their own mysteries? Or should I indulge myself in bringing pleasure to people with my little songs and dances as I prance around the world enjoying being 'perky' in my advancing years? It was a puzzlement." Puzzle no longer. Stick to high kicks and kooky old crones, Shirley.

WATCH
BBC1 Newsround Extra
4.55pm (tonight)



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A nightingale winced in Berkeley Square

I made my reservation with the promise of the commercial crooning in my ears: "Dance to the rhythm of the big band car." The voice from Jazz FM stayed with me long after the ad campaign had finished, and with it the vision of a dream venue for eating, drinking and tangoing from my formative cinema-going years. I've been waiting for a place like this since I was nine.

Actually, that wasn't the sole reason for making this boy-friend's reward for painting my kitchen. I was also seeking an excuse to wear the diamond earrings bought at Butler & Wilson three years ago for a film producers' party that I couldn't go to because my escort took the host to court. (The matching bracelet, from a Sikh wholesaler in Soho, had to be quarantined after it shredded my rights in a lavatory in Manchester Airport just before I gave a talk to 200 bookshellers.)

When we got to Take Manhattan in Piccadilly, central London, my heart gave a little leap. I thought, I can play Rita Hayworth in here: no problem — even in a £49.99 Next drip-dry. If you ignored the Street shopping list on my bank, I could afford a definite touch of glamour.

The boyfriend, despite his good jacket and the nightgown

here and there with forget-me-not vinyl silk, but in the intimate lighting it blended fine. The figure-hugging chairs were white with black piping, and the columnar wall lights, such as used to grace ocean liners, really evoked the nightclubs of the monochrome years.

"A jumped up departure lounge," said the boyfriend, who amused himself by periodically asking when the duty free would come round. We had the best table, on the raised part overlooking the rest of the furniture, although to be fair there wasn't much competition for it.

The maître d', who greeted us as long lost customers, took my order for Cajun blackened fish. He sounded like Peter Lorre, evoking the speech rhythm of the big band era.

"Mmm, sounds delicious. And what kind of fish is it?" I asked him.

"Haddock."

NIGHT LIFE
Stephanie Calman on
a treat that slowly
became a trial



then hypnotising them with sounds that may or may not have been "Fly Me to the Moon" played backwards.

I've never heard music like it, and I used to write for a music paper. Well, I once had something similar perpetrated on me by two men and a drum machine in a hotel in Split, but I had, with rehabilitation, erased it. This lot were two men and a girl, nicely

turned out in black, and apparently nameless.

Smiling bravely, like the subjects of foster-child advertisements, they took up their synthesizers and all hopes of the live rhythms of the big band era were dashed once and for all. "Tuxedo Junction" merged into "Day-O", then became the theme from *The Godfather*, sung in a language almost without consonants. On "Chattanooga ChooChoo" they pressed more of the buttons. They sounded numb but happy: a little like people coming out of a general anaesthetic.

The maître d' appeared and asked, "Is everything up to your likings?"

The rest of the staff maintained the level of sensitivity normally shown to accident victims: in order not to seem brusque by comparison I felt compelled to put my head on one side and say things like, "A further portion of lemon, if I may?"

Then some taped music came on. I recognised a couple of dance-floor favourites from the 1970s, followed by what sounded like the soundtrack for a spaghetti sauce commercial. For some reason, Hawaiian guitars featured heavily. No one danced. The girl in off-the-shoulder purple

ruching — a dramatic warning of the limitations of Austrian blinds — ate small mouthfuls holding the cutlery as if it were electrified.

Two Chinese lads in cricket jumpers drank cocktails. A man who looked like Kenneth Clarke talked, while his beautiful companion listened.

We skipped coffee. Still unable to define the ethnicity of the place, we interrogated Peter Lorre.

"It's Canadian," he eventually admitted.

The boyfriend has never been to the Hilton rooftop bar, which is dead romantic. So we whooshed up to the 28th floor, me promising him a breathtaking view and very grown-up ambience. We got breathless, all right. Since I'd last been there, spending the budget for my book launch on two Mai Tais, the rules had changed. The nice waitress said that it was just past 11pm but we could still buy their £6 drinks. It was just going to cost £12 extra for the experience.

"So," said the boyfriend, as we walked, freezing, along Park Lane. "When do I get this treat for painting the kitchen?"

MONDAY
Libby Purves's working life

GALLERIES

Messages from a man in distress

Richard Cork reviews a British painter whose early promise did not come to fulfilment

Nobody could divine, from the self-portrait painted by Mark Gerter at the age of 17, that his life would terminate in suicide just over 20 years later. Sporting a wide-brimmed fishing cap, with an embroidered scarf wound round his neck, he looks every inch the young bohemian. Cool and resolute, his gaze belongs to an artist confident of the precocious ability he had been given.

His retrospective at the Camden Arts Centre proves, however, that Gerter would never again feel so optimistic and assured. After all, in 1908, he had just been awarded a place at the Slade, then the most distinguished art school in London.

Financial assistance from the Jewish Education Aid Society had enabled him to enrol, for his immigrant father could never have afforded the fees. The Gerter family was large, and his parents had suffered great privation after they left Galicia in the latter years of the previous century. So Mark was fortunate to enter the Slade, where his poised draughtsmanship and portraiture soon won him awards.

He was lucky, too, in his fellow-students. With Stanley Spencer, Paul Nash and Christopher Nevill among his contemporaries, supplementing the friendships he had already made with such East End neighbours as David Bomberg and Isaac Rosenberg, the company Gerter kept was continually stimulating.

But while most of them were attracted to the challenging new art disclosed in Roger Fry's Post-Impressionist surveys, he preferred to haunt the National Gallery. No hint of the heretical Cézanne ruffles the 1908 self-portrait, and a painting of his parents completed in 1910 is equally unwilling to ally itself with the avant-garde.

The picture's stylistic conservatism is not, however, matched by psychological timidity. At first glance, the father in his wing-collared Sunday best appears to dominate. The strongest light falls on his ascetic features while his wife remains half-hidden in the shadows behind. But

after a while, her gaze becomes formidably intense, and the hand that she places on his shoulder looks heavy and resolute enough to exert a controlling authority.

Maybe my response to Golda Gerter's presence here is affected by knowledge of the portraits to come. A year later, she is granted a painting of her own, and the full force of her personality is made oppressively clear. Arrayed in a majestic dress, Gerter's mother stares out with unsmiling wariness.

Although clenched hands indicate the strength of her will, they also convey an anxiety which might well have centred on his future. How could he earn a living from his art? And how soon would his new middle-class friends tempt him away?

Gerter was asking himself the same questions. They would continue to plague him for many years, and the economic problem dogged his life to the end. By 1913, after he had left the Slade and confronted the hazards of a career outside the art-school world, they began to surface in his painting. A new, smaller portrait of his mother shows her in a different guise. Encoined in the kitchen, with a spotted red scarf round her head and a dark apron shrouding her squat body, the matriarch has been transformed into a peasant.

This is a woman accustomed to hardship, and the rudimentary utensils behind testify to the manual labour dominating her life. A dash of Cézanne seasons the form of the bowl, while Golda's figure is simplified according to her son's newfound interest in Gauguin and Van Gogh.

She is seen, now, as an embodiment of "primitive" values, and therefore more distant from Gerter's increasingly sophisticated milieu. The East End was

becoming a remote place in his eyes, inhabited by people like the *Jewish Family* who seem paralysed by melancholy and marooned in isolation.

By this time, Gerter felt torn in loyalties between his love of family and a commitment to new friends. The conflict within him was immense, and a disquiet erupts in the portrait of his brother Harry holding an apple. Frowning and smirking at the same time, the young man fixes his portraitist with a fierce, unsettling gaze.

Harry's mouth seems to be stained with crimson juice, and he holds a scarlet apple between plump-like fingers and thumb. His baleful expression suggests that the proffered fruit may be poisoned. Perhaps Gerter used his brother as a symbol of the threat posed by adherence to the values of his childhood.

At all events, by 1915 he had left the East End and settled in Hampstead, enormously relieved to break free from family constraints at last. The sense of liberation must have given him the energy to tackle the largest and most powerful painting he ever produced.

Merry-Go-Round, which uses a funfair carousel as a metaphor for the unstoppable insanity of war, is a macabre masterpiece. Gerter's most despairing feelings about the supremacy of aggression, and humanity's helplessness in the face of mechanised barbarism, were channelled into the equivalent of a yell.

The most horrifying aspect of this engulfing picture lies in the gleam with which each rider remains ensnared in the whirling dizziness of the carousel. War is regarded as an insidiously addictive drug capable of giving them the elation they crave. Worse still, it reduces them to the level of automata. Soldiers and civilians alike have been robbed of the ability to experience real feeling, and Gerter feared that a similar malaise had blighted his own relationship with the unresponsive Dora Carrington.

Merry-Go-Round exposed so much of his private and social despair that Gerter was weakened by the effort involved in its execution. His



Gerter's portrait of his brother Harry: "Frowning and smirking at the same time... a fierce, unsettling gaze"

health, never robust, worsened with the discovery of tuberculosis. And his depression became acute, forcing him for a while to abandon work altogether in 1919.

After he rallied, Gerter enjoyed a decade of success with critics and collectors. But he did so only by suppressing his darker side, which had given his pre-war art and most bracing tensions. By hanging *Merry-Go-Round* in the middle of the

latter room, Camden's excellent survey demonstrates how superior this eye-battering picture is to anything he painted afterwards.

Perhaps it frightened him, and Gerter concluded that he could only continue by masking the emotional vortex he had once revealed. Hence the determined serenity and ripeness of his post-war art, where he often strives to vie with Renoir as a celebrator of women, fruit and flowers.

At his finest, in the monumental repose of *Queen of Sheba*, the outcome has an impressive finality. At his weakest, however, the strain of maintaining this equilibrium gives some of the canvases a glassy, airless unreality. Claustrophobia afflicts the crowded still-life compositions, implying a horror vacui on Gerter's part. The failure of his last exhibition hastened the final attempt at suicide in 1939.

The loss to British art as a result of his premature death was substantial. Among his final paintings is a vehement, hieratic image called *The Red Shawl*, where Gerter seems to be recovering his former muscle and, with the help of a palette knife, developing a new sculptural authority.

Mark Gerter's retrospective continues at the Camden Arts Centre (071-435 5224), Arkwright Road, London NW8, until March 8.

CRITIC'S CHOICE GALLERIES

● **LARA KULKARNI:** When fire gutted Boosey and Hawkes's Regent Street music shop in 1990, among the losses in the fine Deco interior were six lunette paintings by Anna Zinkeisen. For the carefully reconstructed new premises, the company held a limited competition among art students for replacement paintings, and the winner was an invigorating and enterprising choice — was Lara Kulkarni from the Slade. Her work, which is abstract, but with musical references, is given a five-day gallery showing before installation.

Bernard Jacobson Gallery, 14a Clifford Street, W1 (071-495 8575). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until tomorrow.

● **CHRISTOPHER BRAMHAM:** A newcomer to the Marlborough stable, Bramham produces deceptively sober and meticulous depictions of the suburban scene. But beneath the quiet patterns of greyish-green leaves and grass — usually under grey English skies — there lurks a rigorous concern for the hidden geometry. The balance between representation and abstraction gives Bramham's work its distinctive inner tension.

Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (071-629 5161). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, until February 29.

● **SIMON LEWY:** Lewy is undoubtedly a very English artist, and if that implies a degree of eccentricity, he probably would not argue. His works up to now, whether large or tiny, have involved elements of topographical charts, mysterious calligraphic inscriptions, and distorted figures. In this new show the elements are as before, but in different mixes. Justification with a selection of works by David Jones underlines Lewy's place in an oddball tradition.

Austin Desmond & Phipps (in association with Anne Berthoud), Pied Bullyard, 68-69 Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-242 4443). Mon-Fri 10.30am-6pm, Sat 10.30am-2.30pm, until February 15.

● **BEN JOHNSON:** Consisting of "paintings and diverse objects", Johnson's new show suggests that he is in a state of transition. There are the familiar cool, elegantly formal depictions of architectural interiors, real and imagined, but there are also painted abstractions and related objects. Logical enough; it will be interesting to see where he goes on from here.

Fischer Fine Art, 30 King Street, SW1 (071-839 3942). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until March 5.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Queue here for a rare chance to play God

THEATRE

After an internal row, the York Mystery Plays will be staged indoors for the first time. Peter Davenport sat in on auditions

John, a former teacher turned antiques restorer, said he had already been Pilate and thought he might like to turn his hand to Lucifer this time, although he didn't mind trying for God. Lizzie, an art school model, had been a stripper in the flood scene with Noah, sang "Lili Marlene" at audition and would consider anything on this occasion. Andrew, made redundant from his job last year, had the makings of an eloquent Adam. Beyoncé, just nine years old, was told she might be an angel or an angel or maybe a small devil.

The time is just after six o'clock on a cold evening in York. These four are among the first of perhaps 300 hopefuls who, over the next three weeks, will climb the stairs to a sparsely furnished rehearsal room. There they will be granted a ten-minute audience in which to secure a place in the city's four-yearly cycle of Mystery Plays, to be staged again this summer.

A cast of 150, ranging from first-time actors to dedicated amateurs, will be selected to support the only professional, who will play Jesus and is yet to be announced. In the past the role has been taken by

Victor Bannerman, Michael York and Christopher Timothy.

For the first time the plays are being staged indoors, in the York Theatre Royal. As the theatre's artistic director, Derek Nicholls, said as he paused during auditions: "It is not a question of there not being enough people to make up the cast; there are too many. Some will be disappointed."

The tradition of the Mystery Plays in York dates back to the Middle Ages, when the people of the city would take the Biblical stories of Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, the Nativity and The Passion through the streets in a procession of 48 wagons. They were revived in 1951 as part of the York Festival, itself a contribution to the Festival of Britain. Now they are regarded as one of the most complete cycles in existence, each production eagerly anticipated and well attended.

But this year's is happening against an unhappy background. The original artistic director, the Australian Margaret Sheehy, was dismissed by the Festival Board after disagreements over her production proposals which, it was estimated, would have cost £300,000 to stage. That was thought too expensive. Now, instead of being held in their traditional, open-air setting with the ruins of St Mary's Abbey on the banks of the River Ouse as a backdrop, they are to go ahead in the Theatre Royal between June 13 and July 11. They also have a new text, drawn from the original medieval and more recent versions, by Liz Lochhead, the poet.

How will audiences react to the changes? Undoubtedly for many the spectacular

open-air setting was a prime attraction. Nicholls, however, insists that the Theatre Royal wants to put its own stamp on this year's plays, and that if they are staged in the theatre they will be in the environment that the company knows best.

Ian Forrest, a York-based freelance director, has now been appointed as director of the Mystery Plays. Other than saying his production will be "less traditional" than in former years he is giving little away.

The disagreements that have occurred have done little to dampen the enthusiasm among York people for a part in the Plays. Nicholls and Forrest are auditioning around 20 men, women and children a night. Hopefuls are asked to read from sections of the script already completed by Lochhead — on this particular night an address by God to Adam and Eve, or the scene between Noah and his distinctly unenthusiastic wife as the Ark is about to set sail.

John Hall, 52, played Pilate in the 1988 cycle of Mystery Plays. This time he wants to play Lucifer, but also reads part of God's address to Adam and Eve. "I'm probably too old to make it as a professional actor now, but there is a special appeal about taking part in Mystery Plays," he says. "It requires a hell of a commitment but it's an enjoyable experience working in such a team."

Andrew Aitchison, 22, was a mechanical fitter in the local railway works before being made redundant last year. He then decided to try and become an actor, something he had dreamed of since leaving school. He reads



John Hall: he read for the roles of Lucifer and God

the part of Adam, then delivers the Dream speech of Clarence, Duke of York from *Richard III*. This receives an appreciative response. "I have spent a year with a local youth theatre, and applied to several drama schools," he says. "I want to be in the Mystery Plays to work with a professional director and a professional actor."

Lizzie Donovan-Anne, 52, reels off "Lili Marlene" to display her singing voice. In the 1988 production she played a stripper in the orgy scene. She likes the idea of playing Pilate's wife. "The Plays need a great deal of commitment, because of the long rehearsals and production but they create a tremen-

dous spirit among the cast," she says. She, and the other 300, will learn whether they are in that cast in about three weeks' time.

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TELEVISION REVIEW

Daniel Johnson

Anatomising abroad

Bull's testicles are not most people's idea of a ribbit, but the Spanish (who apparently believe the things are especially good for children) do not conform to British ideas of just about anything.

Ian Gibson (whose six-part BBC2 series *Fire in the Blood* began last night) is too squeamish to stomach the Spanish attitude to animals, too. His Irish bonhomie enables him to have fun even with those "consuming passions" of the Spaniards which fill him with disquiet, such as the vast ossuary in the Valley of the Fallen, or strike him as pagan, such as the burning of huge effigies in Valencia.

Gibson likes specificity: young women in layout of smoking (defying government propaganda); a youth boasting about his reckless driving; a handsome old lady who might have been a duchess but was in fact the illiterate mother of the left-wing mayor of Anchuras, a village that has defied the defence ministry. This produced some of the best footage. When asked what she would say to the goody-goody premier Felipe Gonzalez, the mayoral matriarch replied: "You bastard!"

Gibson — an expert biographer of Lorca — does not

pretend to offer anything more than his own highly personal portrait of Spain. As a liberal Dubliner, he cheerfully admits his distaste for the morose, clerical and authoritarian severity of Spain (of Franco: "I can't find anything good to say about him"), but he does not deny its influence. That subjectivity is the key to making good television out of a whole nation is shown by a rival four-part series on Channel 4 about Germany.

Ian Watson, the sober-suited presenter of *The Germans*, tries to be kind as well as objective. Yet his didacticism, maps and all, did not prevent the odd changer. After several interviews with Germans ritually disowning their past, a woman gushed: "It's wonderful just to be led."

The close-knit Thuringian village chosen to demonstrate German attachment to local Heimat, as opposed to the nation state, might have been seen in the context of the communist regime under which its inhabitants lived until 1990. Was the village's

"community spirit" enforced by the threat of denunciation? The film did not ask whether the united Germany was a blessing for nonconformists.

More unfortunate still were the opportunities missed. A Wittelsbach prince, Hamburg patricians and Rommel's son Manfred all talked in that inimitable upper class accent about Germany. Faced with such questions, most educated Germans go on to antipilot. Helmut Schmidt was given just long enough to lay claim (implausibly enough) to being "a typical Hamburger".

Are the Spanish just more amusing than the Germans? Not at all. But the irreverent affection that brings a country to life must be provided by the film-maker, not his subject-matter. Ian Gibson offers us his Spain, to like or not as we please. Alan Watson offers the Germany he thinks we ought to like. The latter is worthy; the former lyrical and funny.

● Television listings, page 12

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Public palaces worth preserving

As the anniversary of London's first public lavatory approaches, Marcus Binney celebrates some great British architecture

Thumb through the index of any number of social histories and you will find plenty of entries on public baths, public conveniences, public hygiene, but not on public conveniences. Given the long-standing architectural battler of function at all costs, this coyness is strange.

So the 140th anniversary on Sunday of London's first public convenience, in Fleet Street, prompts an investigation. The first question is: was it really the first?

That depends on a definition of "public". In the Middle Ages, public meant very public. Latrines were built out over London's rivers, and were so well patronised that the Fleet river ceased to flow at times. Lavatory paper did not exist. Patrons had to make use of stones and shells or a stick with a sponge in a container of cold water. The poor did rather better with bunches of herbs.

In the 18th century the emphasis was on still on the public. The robustness of our ancestors shocked the young Duc de la Rochefoucauld, who was studying English in Bury St Edmunds in 1784. He reported that at the end of dinner "the sideboard would be furnished with a number of chamber pots and it is common practice to relieve oneself while the rest were drinking. One has no kind of concealment and the practice strikes me as most indecent."

Given this Gallic sense of decency, it is no surprise that the French pissoir appears to have predated the British street convenience, which, according to Gordon Bille, the railway historian, "like the bar and the bookstall, had its origins in railway stations".

There were public loos, he says, in the first railway stations, notably at Liverpool Road, Manchester (1828) and Crown Street, Liverpool, at the other end of the line.

In London the abolition of cesspits and the development of architectural ceramic opened the way to a revolution in public hygiene. The Fleet Street convenience, whose opening in 1852 was announced in *The Times*, was a symbol of this.

The man credited with the transformation is George Jennings, who furnished the Crystal Palace with lavatories and fitted up the hospital at Scutari, in the Crimea. His catalogue of 1895 lists 36 towns, as well as many others, improved by public conveniences which he also supplied to 30 railway companies.

His treatise illustrates all the main types built: the cast-iron pissoirs, the sub-surface lavatory approached down a flight of steps enclosed by cast-iron railings and the island version in the middle of a busy thoroughfare. London around 1900 must have had hundreds. Even after a century of steady closures a City Corporation report noted in 1980 that the score was Westminster 73, Camden 21, Islington 16 and Wandsworth 19.

Those that survive are in acute danger of being robbed of their character through modernisation. What is needed is the equivalent of the ice house hunt, a band of enthusiasts who, with the help of the letters columns of *The Times*, located hundreds of forgotten ice houses in the grounds of country houses.

Jonathan Routh, in his *Good Loo Guide*, gives the public lavatories in Guildhall Yard, in the City, a three-star rating among all those in London. "Small palaces, gleaming brass handrails, wonderful mosaic floors, walls of polished slate and marble, great mahogany and frosted glass doors to the cubicles, massive porcelain handbasins, towering porcelain urinals." Today you can still see your reflection in the gleaming copper pipes but the tops of the walls are stained by leaks.

The City's public lavatories have a handy little map locating others, as well as key-operated loos for the disabled. By Smithfield market, in front of Bart's hospital, the sub-surface lavatories recently modernised are still in operation, surrounded by heavy duty cast-iron railings painted in the City's blue livery.

Go west towards Lincoln's Inn and in Star Yard, a narrow, paved alley off Chancery Lane is a perfect example of a cast-iron pissoir, now firmly padlocked, with characteristic lattice work at the top for ventilation. In Lincoln's Inn Fields, a traditional pavilion with ladies' and gents' is still in operation, appropriately rustic and cloaked in creeper. The entrance porch is in the manner of the architect Voysey, with dwarf art nouveau columns.

Nearby in Holborn, in front of the Prudential building, is an example of one of Jennings's island conveniences. The gents' is approached down a miniature version of an imperial stair, with one flight branching into two. The railings and the tapering bollards



In Rothery's marbled stalls: the Isle of Bute's magnificent lavatories are closed, but the Strathclyde Building Preservation Trust is raising funds to restore them

he specified survive. The elaborate central iron lampstand has intriguing openwork grilles in its base, explained by the fact that the lamp doubled as a ventilator.

Outside London there must be numerous public lavatories awaiting listing. Among the best known are those in Market Street, Hull, surmounted by a larger than life-size equestrian statue of William III, while in Bristol, at Horfield Common, there is an ornate domed pavilion housing ladies' and gents' in Hindu Gothic style. Cast-iron urinals are to be found at Great Ayrton in Yorkshire and Walkersburn, Peebleshire. Among the best of all are the urinals on the pier at Rothery harbour on the Isle of Bute. Here are 20 Twyford St Annes marble stalls with six arranged in a central

hexagon. They are closed but the Strathclyde Building Preservation Trust is raising funds to restore them.

As pissoirs disappear they suddenly become chic. The new Galerie Gautier in London's Draycott Avenue, has pissoir-style changing rooms painted green and suitably rounded with grilles top and bottom.

Today's architects make a virtue of putting the guts of a building on show with glass panels revealing the mechanisms of elevators and lifts. Jennings was doing this a century earlier with glass fronted water cisterns. Those at Holborn and Hull reputedly had goldfish swimming in them to prove the water was clean.

Railway lavatories were often handsomely equipped. Euston in

the early days had first and second class gents' loos and the railways are said to have installed the first penny locks.

Glasgow boasted a ladies' that compared with the lavish one in Harrods, while that at Paddington was better known for the attendant's cat which reputedly weighed a hundredweight. Until recently St Pancras had a remarkable blue and white tiled gents', unfortunately in a sad state of delapidation.

The best place to find Victorian lavatories still in action, in full splendour and earthiness, is on the preserved railway lines. The Worth Valley line in Yorkshire makes a speciality of authentic loos. Here you can sample mahogany seats, slate urinals and study a whole range of Victorian cisterns

with names like Niagara and Atalanta. The best is at Oakworth, with a gents' from 1860. No flush here, just a bucket of water.

By contrast the ladies', dating from 1910, is spacious, designed for big skirts and hats. Flushing mechanisms and pots are original and gas-lighting has been reinstated. This is where *The Railway Children* was filmed.

Now opulent Edwardian plumbing is the fashion, it cannot be too long before the first municipalities are vying to make their public lavatories a tourist attraction. Sadly, the first gents' in Fleet Street will not be available for inspection. The entry fee was twopenny — a high price to spend a penny in the mid-19th century. Only 58 men visited the lavatory and it closed within a few months.



Lavish: the ladies' at Harrods

No place for a lady

America's example shows the danger of creating our own political First Lady

Britons should stand by for a "season of sexuality". Politically, at least, Professor Lewis Gould has studied the election omens and confidently predicts an "exciting" combination of prudence and propriety.

As the lecturer in First Lady studies at the University of Texas, Professor Gould is an authority on the sometimes explosive role of political spouses. Rumours that the Labour party might wish to capitalise on Glensy Kinnock's campaign experience, expected to be in sharp contrast to Norma Major's shyness, have already drawn comparisons with the high profile of spouses in American politics.

But Professor Gould, who has recently embarked upon a study of gubernatorial spouses and is following the Bill Clinton case with particular interest, says Britain should beware the cult of the political couple. "I'd say to your prime ministerial candidates' wives, 'be very careful about starting down this road because you can't turn back'."

The professor sees only pitfalls for those who succumb to the American style of political partnership, particularly when there is, as yet, no job title or description for the wife of a prime minister.

"A culture of celebrity is developing which is making prime ministers become more presidential and then their wives become celebrities by extension," he says. "But there is no real role for a British prime minister's wife the way there is for an American First Lady. The First Lady can be a surrogate for her husband on ceremonial — and political — occasions. She has a very busy social and ceremonial role and is expected to espouse worthy causes." Barbara Bush has adopted "literacy" as her special cause, just as Nancy Reagan threw herself into her "Say No" to drugs campaign.

Professor Gould has been running his courses since 1982. Between 60 and 100 students attend his classes each term and although they cannot major in First Lady studies, the course is fully accredited. Why study the political spouse at all? For two reasons, Professor Gould says: because no matter how self-effacing and supportive, they wield great influence and because, in America at least, voters elect a couple.

First Ladies did not begin campaigning in earnest with their husbands until the first Mrs Wilson in 1912, when female suffrage was beginning to be ratified by some states. But



Experienced: Glensy Kinnock



Shy: Norma Major



Busy: Barbara Bush



Determined: Hillary Clinton

Professor Gould notes, a contemporary report commented that "prize fighters and dancers in public halls do not receive as much criticism as Mrs Lincoln".

The second Mrs Wilson effectively ran the country when her husband had a stroke, controlling all access to him, and Eleanor Roosevelt, Bess Truman, Lady Bird Johnson, Betty Ford, Rosalynn Carter and Nancy Reagan were all known — and occasionally criticised — for giving policy advice to their husbands.

In Britain the royal family fulfils many of the ceremonial and charity roles which an American First Lady is duty-bound to undertake, Professor Gould suggests. "It would be impossible for a First Lady to keep up any type of paid employment even if she wanted to," he says, "not just because of the volume of the work — a First Lady gets thousands of letters a week — but because of

perceived conflicts of interest. The vice-president's wife Marilyn Quayle, for example, is no longer practising as a lawyer, and has instead become identified with breast cancer, since her mother died of it."

For an American presidential spouse to refrain from moving into the White House, as Norma Major has refrained from moving to Downing Street full-time, would be "unthinkable," Professor Gould believes.

"There's now so much in the way of ceremonial activity predicted on a First Lady's presence that it would be hard to see how to get on without her." A president who was a bachelor, divorced or widowed would have to get an aunt or a sister or a daughter to perform the function, he says, as presidents have in the past.

"When Geraldine Ferraro was running I said it would be darned hard to see how a 'First Mate'

would handle the job — but there are now some female governors and their husbands have managed in analogous situations. But I don't think an American 'First Mate' could stay in the back-ground like Denis Thatcher did."

A widower can survive in the White House, he says, "with grown children to take on some of the responsibilities — but I doubt whether a divorced man without a wife would be elected".

"Of the current crop of candidates, Governor Wilder of Virginia was divorced and Jerry Brown and Bob Carey are single — and I don't think any of them is going to make it," Professor Gould says.

The Kinnocks' symbolic, shambling, "photo-opportunity" on the seashore at Brighton in 1983, after he had just been elected party leader, was reminiscent — bar the slip-up — of many similar, carefully-staged, American presidential scenes. Some badges which appeared afterwards suggested "Vote for Glensy", just as "Vote for Betty's husband" became an unofficial campaign slogan for Gerald Ford.

More Americans might be inclined right now to vote for Barbara Bush than George. Professor Gould suggests, or for Hillary Clinton, after her defence of the right to privacy in a marriage, than for her errant husband.

Norma Major was first projected as a political personality during the ballots for leader of the Conservative party after Mrs Thatcher's resignation — when she and the wives of her husband's two rivals, Anne Heseldine and Judy Hurd, were relentlessly analysed and contrasted. That was, Professor Gould says, merely a mild preview of what is in store for the spouses in a full-blown general election.

That's one big difference between the American and British system," Professor Gould says. "British prime ministers are chosen by their party, not directly by the people, so 'image' has not been considered so essential, until now, with so many votes won, or lost, on television.

Politicians who make a perfect marriage part of their platform are "leaving themselves wide open", he says. Intimate questions can be asked because they are deemed to be a character issue. "Once you start stressing family values and putting yourself forward for election as a couple, the quality of the marriage comes into play — and it's a fair game."

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Big men, little losers

As enquiries continue into the millions missing from Robert Maxwell's pension funds, a timely reminder of the human cost

My brother had invited me into his office for a "blue video show". Heighway Publications, latterly and reluctantly known as Maxwell Business Communications Marine and Fishing Division, is one of the dozens of small companies which, in their own phrase, "got stuck to the Maxwell flypaper" when AGB, their parent group, was bought by Maxwell two years ago.

Television news this week aired Maxwell's extraordinary 1988 video, appealing to staff to stay in the company scheme. But Harry Barrett, Heighway's managing director, had found a second, more startling example of the genre. It flickered through the boardroom, sparking with ironies.

Set in a pub, it shows bright young people saying "Hey — I got the job — and it's got a great pension". They then debate pension schemes, with the predictable result. One young man bewails his late joining: "I've already lost five years pension!" "Try 30, mate!" mutters someone in the corner. The camera pans up to a cinema hoarding in the background: the film is *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Barks of mirth from the watchers. The young people on screen decide on a video instead. "How about," one says, "The Evil Dead?"

There is a devil's advocate, a bright girl called Sue. "You're trapped," she says to Frank, the company pension fan. "You're just being used for the company's convenience." Back in real life, everyone nods ironically. "We were." Younger faces look outraged: older ones bleak. To their credit they all laugh, a bit. But one director picked up the paper and stared with brooding sympathy at the story of the stranded Soviet astronaut. "Poor sod. Stuck up there with his country falling to bits, not knowing whether the next food-rocket will get there. He's the Maxwell Pensioner of space travel."

It feels like that to work in one of the dozens of small companies. They are diverse, from trade magazines to a venerable agricultural machinery concern in Ipswich. Many have strong company loyalties which survived absorption into the group: many, like Heighway, have always been profitable and were in no way "saved" by Maxwell. Mr Barrett says he feels, "completely helpless, even as a director. You couldn't believe anyone could be so naked. I was



Left helpless: Harry Barrett with the Maxwell pension video

going to retire in two years. I reckon he's had half a million of mine. But what am I supposed to say to people who are worse off?"

This week, the trustees announced the winding-up of six pension schemes in the AGB group; more liquidations are expected. The staff had hoped for a government safety-net, not least because they claim that IMRO, the government watchdog, gave a clean bill of health to their fund only six weeks before Maxwell died.

They also had hopes of the citizen's charter. But let us to ministers, election-distraction, have not been successful. One constituent of John Gummer received in reply only the curious boast that "I am someone who in the past refused to work for Maxwell, precisely because everything I knew about him led me to believe that he was not an honourable man". Part of the current sense of smouldering injustice is the feeling that the outside world regards all Maxwell's workers as tainted with Maxwell's brush.

But it was never like that, says Peter Hjul, Heighway's editorial director. The slave-trade of modern company takeovers meant that "We were swallowed." Maxwell bought AGB and we were in it. We never even saw him." But at the moment of takeover, not only their Heighway contributions but their whole career's worth of pensions

from other employers were at his mercy. One AGB worker had 20 years with Mars and transferred her benefits only last January. The fact that this has never happened since company pensions began, in 1921, means that the human and moral implications are proving slow to register. So are the wider social ones. Unlike BCCI or Barlow Clowes investors, these are not high-return gamblers. They are modest, middling people who played safe, and still lost. Working life in Britain is underpinned by certain assumptions: ordinary people want a "steady" job with a "reputable" firm and encourage their children towards such lives. They trust officialdom, and accountants and company lawyers to see fair play.

But now that all these safeguards have proved useless, now that even existing pensioners have been given no guarantee of payment beyond the next two months, and that nobody much seems to care, is the whole illusion crumbling? It might. Because unless someone rescues the Maxwell employees it is an unedifying fact that Frank and Sue in the video would have been better putting their money in a sock, or drinking it. Not perhaps, quite the sober and cohesive social message the government wants to spread.

LIBBY PURVES

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Can the sun save your life?

Thomson Prentice reports on an international project designed to find out whether sunshine prevents, as well as causes, certain cancers

While Manchester lives under the cloud of being one of Britain's rainiest cities, San Diego basks in its reputation as one of America's sunniest. Last year, the southern Californian metropolis enjoyed 2,978 hours of sunshine, an average of more than eight hours a day. Manchester, by contrast, managed 1,360 hours.

Now scientists in the two cities are planning a joint project to test the theory that sunshine might prevent the development of certain cancers. Central to the hypothesis is the role of vitamin D, which we get through only a few foods, such as oily fish and egg yolks, and, crucially, through exposure to sunlight. Vitamin D helps the body by absorbing calcium and calcium can help prevent the uncontrolled cell growth that manifests itself as cancer.

The theory now under scrutiny is that deficiencies of the vitamin can allow cancer to develop and that, since vitamin D deficiency in Britain is common, the amount of sunshine we get may make a life-or-death difference. This is a provocative message at a time when doctors are more concerned by increases in potentially fatal skin cancers caused by over-exposure to the sun. But Barbara Mawer, a Manchester-based biochemist and one of Britain's leading experts on the vitamin, says: "We don't get more than a quarter of the vitamin D we need from our diet, and we are dependent on sunshine as the major source of it."

"We cannot yet prove a connection between cancer and vitamin D deficiency, but it is a promising field of research."

Dr Mawer, a senior research fellow in the university department of medicine at Manchester Royal Infirmary, is involved in a Medical Research Council study of the actions of vitamin D. In a separate project, she plans to work with San Diego researchers on a

study that should provide some important answers.

Richard Davies, a British cancer surgeon, now associate professor of surgery and the chief of surgical oncology at the University of California in San Diego, says: "The death rate from colorectal cancer is ten times higher among women in Manchester than in San Diego, and five times higher among Manchester's men. I am convinced that vitamin D deficiency is an important factor."

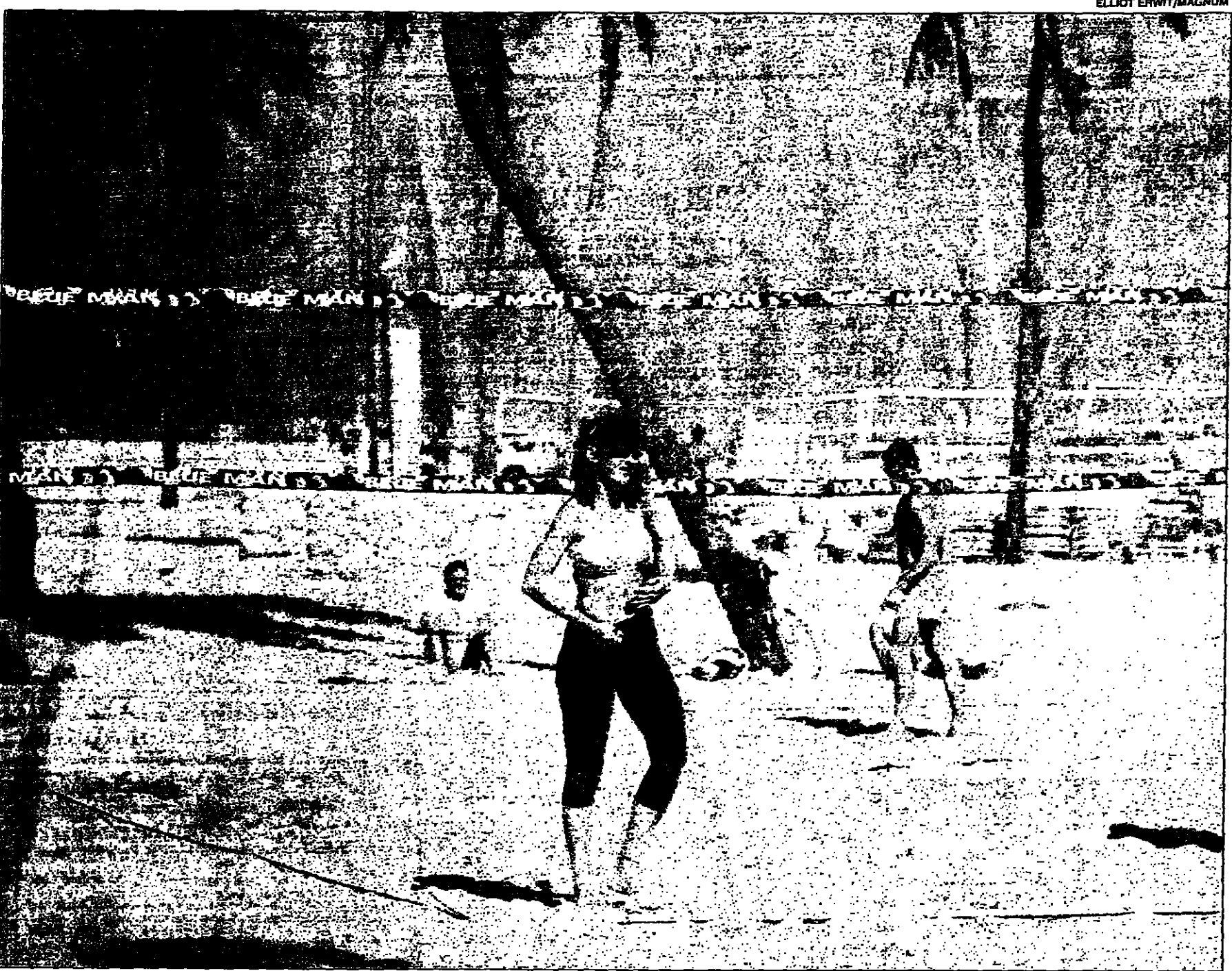
Professor Davies is working closely on vitamin D and cancer research with three San Diego doctors, Edward Gorham and the brothers Frank and Cedric Garland. They are focusing on cancer of the breast and colon, because calcium is taken into the breast from the bloodstream to help make milk, and is more quickly absorbed by the colon than other parts of the body.

Their studies of patterns of the two diseases across America suggest a strong link between the illnesses and exposure to sunlight. "The strong inverse association of sunlight and colon cancer raises the possibility that vitamin D may act in the prevention of colon cancer," Frank Garland says. "The vitamin D deficiency disease of the past was rickets. Today, we believe that disease is cancer."

The contrasts are not limited to Manchester and San Diego. Studies show that, worldwide, breast and colon cancer are far more common in North America and Europe than anywhere else, and almost unknown in a wide band above and below the equator.

In Britain, there is little regional variation for breast cancer, but cancer of the colon is more common in the north and north-east of Scotland than in any other part of Britain.

In Europe as a whole, breast cancer is most common in northern nations such as Britain — which has 24,000 new cases and 15,000 deaths a year — Denmark and The Netherlands, but rarer in



A beach in the sun-scorched south of America, where breast cancer death rates are lowest. North-eastern cities — New York, Chicago and Boston — have the highest

Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Greece. In Africa, India, China and southeast Asia, it is even less common. Again, the pattern is similar for colon cancer, which accounts for about 17,000 new cases and more than 12,000 deaths a year in Britain.

Can sunshine alone explain such differences? "There must also be a dietary component, and there are probably a number of other causes, particularly of breast cancer, that we don't yet understand," Professor Davies says. "But the role of vitamin D may be very important. Put it this way — if you moved at a young age from Britain and went to live in sub-Saharan Africa, and adopted the local lifestyle, you wouldn't get cancer of the breast or colon."

In 1985, Cedric Garland's study of health records spanning the 19 previous years in the lives of 2,000 Chicago men showed that those who consumed most vitamin D had the lowest rates of colon cancer.

In 1989, the Garlands and Dr Gorham published another study, in *The Lancet*, involving blood samples from 25,000 Americans, which concluded that the vitamin appeared to have a protective effect against the disease.

In 1990, the team published, in *Preventive Medicine*, an American journal, a study of geographic variations in breast cancer deaths in America. "Lack of exposure to ultraviolet sunlight can increase

the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency, which may place some populations at higher risk of breast cancer," it concluded.

The Garlands admit that their research does not amount to clear evidence that sunlight protects against the two cancers. They are aware, too, that there is little support among mainstream cancer researchers for their theory.

"It's premature to draw any public health conclusions from this kind of work," says David Forman, a senior scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's epidemiology unit in Oxford.

Dr Forman is involved in one of the biggest international cancer projects ever undertaken. Launched last November, the European Prospective Investiga-

tion into Cancer (Epic), will involve 400,000 people in eight European countries, including Britain. Its object is to investigate dietary links with cancer, identifying food elements that give protection and those that cause disease.

The proposed Manchester-San Diego study will involve two groups of about 1,000 patients in each city, most of them elderly and half of them with colon cancer. Their vitamin D and calcium levels will be compared. Biopsies taken from the cancer patients will be examined to see what differences exist between the English and the Californians.

"We already know vitamin D levels are low in Manchester, because the normal diet does not contain a lot of fish, and there is

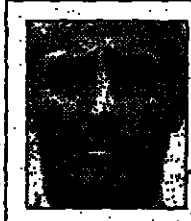
not much sunshine. The question is why cancer levels there are so high," Professor Davies says. "I'm well aware of the risks of skin cancer, and I'm certainly not advocating sunbathing as a way of avoiding breast or colon cancer." "Excessive exposure is dangerous, but ten or 15 minutes' sunlight a day provides enough vitamin D," Cedric Garland says. "Avoidance of sunlight has become almost a mania among Californians afraid of skin cancer. There will be 140,000 deaths from cancers of the breast and colon in America next year, and as opposed to 6,500 deaths from skin cancers. We think sunlight has more potential benefits than risks."

• Care of the elderly, pages 8-10

One-in-a-million tragedy

MOST fathers have become dab hands at changing their children's nappies, especially since the disposable version made the task suitable for unskilled hands. However, the 40-year-old uncle who caught polio while changing the nappy of his newly vaccinated baby niece seems to have suffered as a result of performing services beyond the normal call of avuncular duty.

Even though he had not been vaccinated against polio, he was extremely unlucky, although a second case has also been reported recently. More than two million people in England and Wales are vaccinated against polio each year, and it is estimated that only one recipient of the vaccine, and one contact — as in the uncle's case — develops the active



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

disease. Instructions given to the family at the time of vaccination usually emphasise the importance of adults washing their hands after changing nappies, and before they eat.

Polio vaccines are of two types: both types contain three strains of the virus. The Sabin oral vaccine is usually used in

this country. It is made from a live attenuated (weakened) strain, and is traditionally given as drops on a sugar lump; in other parts of the world an inactivated virus is given by injection.

As well as children, adults who travel, or those who have not been vaccinated during the past ten years, should also be given polio drops for protection.

Polio used to be feared by parents as much as meningitis, and the removal of that anxiety represents one of the great advances of post-war medicine. Nobody who remembers the rows of "iron lungs", housed in hangars rather than wards, puffing and panting as they kept the paralysed bodies within them alive, can doubt that the one in a million chance of a side-effect is a risk well worth taking.

Fight to the death



WEDDINGS, like Christmas gatherings, are tense social occasions in which disparate people are thrust together and then have their inhibitions loosened by alcohol. Most are enjoyable, but it is not unusual to hear of fistfights breaking out. Last weekend it was reported that, following a particularly bloody battle at a wedding, one of the fighters was infected with HIV by another.

This case is of fundamental importance, as hitherto it has always been taught by the authorities, although not always believed by the general public, that contact sports and playground banties involving HIV-positive people did not represent a danger to other non-infected players. When there is infected blood from a patient, and open wounds or broken skin — even eczema — on the other participants, there must be some risk. Whether this risk is so small that it is acceptable is something which the people concerned, or their parents, should decide, rather than the authorities.

TB truths and myths

TO UNDERSTAND the complexities of tuberculosis takes years. So it was perhaps unwise of Lord Ferrers, an admirably bluff East Anglian squire, to have been quite so definite when he dismissed the fears that Lord Kenner and Baroness Masham expressed about the possibility of the spread of TB through infected sputum, the tacky spit coughed up from the lungs.

In the House of Lords short debate on spitting in public, some peers wanted to see the war-time warnings about the dangers of spitting spreading TB resurrected. Others spoke admiringly of Singapore, where spitting in public is illegal.

Around since ancient times, TB became known as the White Plague in the 19th century when the overcrowding and poor feeding associated with the industrial revolution lowered the resistance of the population to the bacillus. Since the second world war the pasteurisation of milk has virtually eradicated bovine TB, although occasionally a holidaymaker who was unwise enough to drink some of the local milk becomes infected.

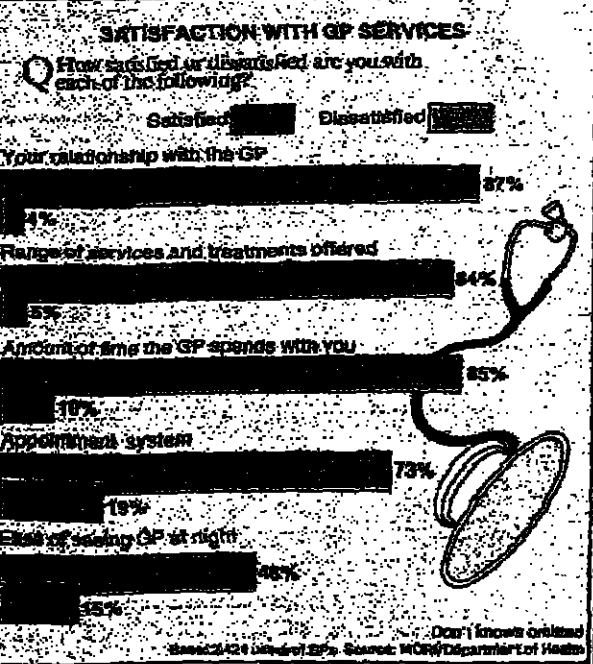
ed that one undiagnosed, untreated patient with positive sputum infects ten others. In the developing countries there are likely to be 20 victims.

The case of Jackie Mann, the former hostage who has been diagnosed as having tuberculosis, is different. He had TB earlier in life. It had become absolutely quiescent, but has now been rekindled as a result of his resistance to infection being undermined by the deprivations he suffered while in prison. In Mr Mann's case, as in most post-primary infections, the clues to the true diagnosis are well hidden; the symptoms are a

persistent cough, a pneumonia which does not respond to treatment, unexplained loss of weight, and fever.

Although immigration from countries where TB is rife, and the advent of AIDS (TB is a frequent secondary infection in HIV positive cases) have caused some resurgence of the disease, Britain is not being threatened by a deadly TB bacillus. Fortunately, TB responds, provided the patient takes the treatment, to a judicious mixture of three or four antimicrobial drugs for two months, followed thereafter, usually for four months, by a selection of two of them.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



The horse was too weak to stand. So her owner left her in a garage for six weeks, supported by a hoist.



L'Île d'Yeu, France, January 1990. This four year old mare belonged to a farmer from the Brittany region of France. She had fallen into a ditch and become entangled in barbed wire. Instead of calling a vet her owner left her to suffer in a garage with only bread and rabbit food to eat. It was here she was discovered by one of our Inspectors. It is cruel and unnecessary, but don't think it is just confined to places like France. We see appalling scenes like this all over the world, virtually every day of the week.

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CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Long life need not break the bank

As the old get older, the young start to worry about the burden. Jeremy Laurance allays the fears

A person born today can expect to live half as long again as one born at the beginning of this century. Life expectancy has increased from 48 for men and 52 for women to 72 for men and 77 for women, a 50 per cent rise within three generations.

But this remarkable gain is viewed as a cause for concern, not celebration. The 20th century has seen an unprecedented rise in the population aged over 65, from 4.7 per cent in 1901 to 15.8 per cent today. At no other time in history have elderly people made up such a large proportion of Britain's population. The rise has prompted fears that we may not be able to care for them.

However, these fears have been greatly exaggerated. The number of people aged over 65 will fall in the 1990s for the first time this century, and the graph will not turn up again for 20 years. In 1991, Britain's dependency ratio — the proportion of the population made up by non-productive children and retired people — stood at 40 per cent. By the end of the century it will rise by only 1 per cent because of an expected increase in the birth-rate and will then remain constant until the second decade of the next century. Then will it rise again to a peak of 46 per cent in 2036.

As William Laing, a health economist, points out in a recent report, "The Challenges of Ageing", this should not be too much for a modern economy to bear. The rise in unemployment to its peak of over three million in the mid-1980s, from around 500,000 in the 1960s, represents "more than half the magnitude of additional dependency that the ageing population will create by the peak year of 2036". The demographic timebomb is a damp squib.

In one respect, however, demographic change will impose a



The hand of kindness: the number of very old people is certain to increase but it is not known how dependent on others they will become

strain through the rise in the very elderly aged 85 or more. Their numbers are projected to grow by almost a third, from 865,000 to 1,146,000, between now and the end of the century. "The crucial end at present unanswerable question", says John Grimley Evans, the professor of geriatric medicine at the University of Oxford, "is whether this increase in survival in

later life is because older people are fitter than their predecessors or because the unfit are being kept alive longer by medical and social interventions."

That the number of very old people will increase is certain. What is not known is how dependent they are going to be.

Some experts take a pessimistic view, arguing that prevention of

illness in adult life will merely postpone it to old age where "the burden will finally fall," in the words of the government green paper, "The Health of the Nation".

But this ignores evidence from the United States which shows that the longer an old person remains fit, the shorter is the average period of any disablement

before death. Prevention in later life not only delays dependency, but also diminishes it — and its associated costs.

There is also new evidence that prevention and treatment in later life are effective, contrary to long-held opinions. Control of high blood pressure with drugs or changes to the diet, at least up to the age of 80, reduces the risk of

strokes. Giving up cigarettes rapidly reduces the risk of heart attacks even in people with established coronary heart disease. Old people who keep control over their lives and have a network of friends also survive better. "We do not have to accept the present pattern of disease and disability in old age as inevitable," says Professor Grimley Evans.

Often old age and disability are thought to be inextricable. Older people are often worse off than the young and are usually kept in wards and buildings that nobody else wants, even though they are more susceptible to depressing surroundings than younger people.

Even a brief period of immobility, because of flu, for example, can mean an older person crosses the threshold between being strong enough to get around and being confined to a chair. But too often, she (or, less often, he) will be allocated a home help and left to her newly disabled state, rather than receiving treatment from a physiotherapist to help her recover her mobility.

It is unlikely that the NHS will be overwhelmed by the demands of the elderly in the future. Government figures show that spending on hospital services ranges from less than £100 for a young adult to over £1,400 for a person of 85 or more (1986-7 figures). Mr Laing calculates that NHS resources will have to increase by five per cent between 1991 and 2001 to keep up with demographic change.

However, the pressure on the care services for the elderly will be much greater. The total cost is estimated at £8 billion in 1991, most of it for institutions. These include NHS long-stay hospitals and wards as well as local authority and voluntary old people's homes. But the largest component is now private residential and nursing homes, partly financed from social security benefits. The rapid increase in the 85-plus age group implies a need for a 47 per cent increase in resources for care services by 2001.

The NHS is shedding its long-stay beds, switching the burden to private nursing homes where residents either pay for themselves or seek help from the Department of Social Security.

This trend is expected to continue as pressure on scarce NHS resources from other quarters continues to grow. "By the end of the decade," Mr Laing predicts, "it is quite possible that most, if not all, NHS long-stay provision will have been transferred."

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Burden of love: most carers take the duties willingly

Who cares for the carers?

Britain's six million carers are tired of the struggle. "I don't want to fight all the time — fight for information, fight for services, fight for help," says one, summing up how many of them feel. Most care for elderly and disabled people is provided by family and friends, but until recently this has gone largely unrecognised.

If the carers' vital contribution to what the government calls Care in the Community is at last acknowledged, it is probably because this is a problem which almost everyone has faced, is facing or expects to face within his or her own family. The commitment of successive governments to the policy of caring in the community rather than in institutions, the increasing age of the population and constraints on public spending have meant that more and more families are finding that services are simply not available when the need arises and that they are expected to cope with no support. Most families undertake this responsibility willingly, but increasingly find that they have to battle for information, services and for someone to listen to them.

It is not difficult for politicians and service providers to reach agreement about what should be done to help carers. Everyone knows that they need information, adequate benefits, practical help in the home and some time off. The new systems

Isolated and tired, those looking after dependent relatives need someone to fight their corner, says Jill Pitkeathley

of community care which come into operation in 1993, when the National Health Service and Community Care Act is fully implemented, aim to make support for carers a reality. Much time and energy is being spent to enable carers to participate in planning the way services will be delivered. For most

from his carer duties, safe in the knowledge that his wife is being looked after by a sitting scheme organised locally.

However great the financial and practical stresses, there is no doubt that the emotional stress carried by carers is what they find most difficult. Caring isolates you. It

More and more families find that they are expected to cope with no support

means you often lose contact with your friends and the rest of your family. It means you become locked into a closed emotional system in which it seems quite unacceptable to think about your own needs. You can lose your feeling of value as an individual in society and can quickly be made to feel that your opinions count for nothing. One of the reasons that carers' support groups are so valuable is that carers can find a means of reassessing their own worth and have the opportunity to discuss their problems with people who are not judgemental.

Perhaps more than anything else, carers need recognition that they are carers — to be able to acknowledge themselves as carers. People do not understand the word "carer". "I am not a carer," they say, "I am a wife, a mother, a son." They see the caring tasks which they perform as something which it is absolutely necessary to do. "It's my duty, isn't it?" they say. "I married him for better or for worse after all." So before they can begin to look at what their own needs for help might be, they have to be encouraged to see themselves as carers.

The work of the Carers National Association helps carers to make this vital recognition and this year we are planning to launch a campaign which we are calling "Listen to Carers".

In the course of the year-long campaign we aim to give more of our nation's six million carers a chance to speak out about their needs and to encourage professionals such as general practitioners and social workers to listen to carers and tailor services to their needs.

We hope the campaign will make the general public — and of course the politicians and policy-makers — aware that this is not someone else's problem. Because they provide 90 per cent of community care, everyone knows someone who is a carer. Yet most of them still receive no help whatsoever. The burdens placed on



Jill Pitkeathley

them, which most accept willingly, are increasing daily. We must act now to ensure that their lives are made more tolerable.

The author is the director of the Carers National Association, 29 Chilworth Mews, London W2 3RG (071-724 7776)

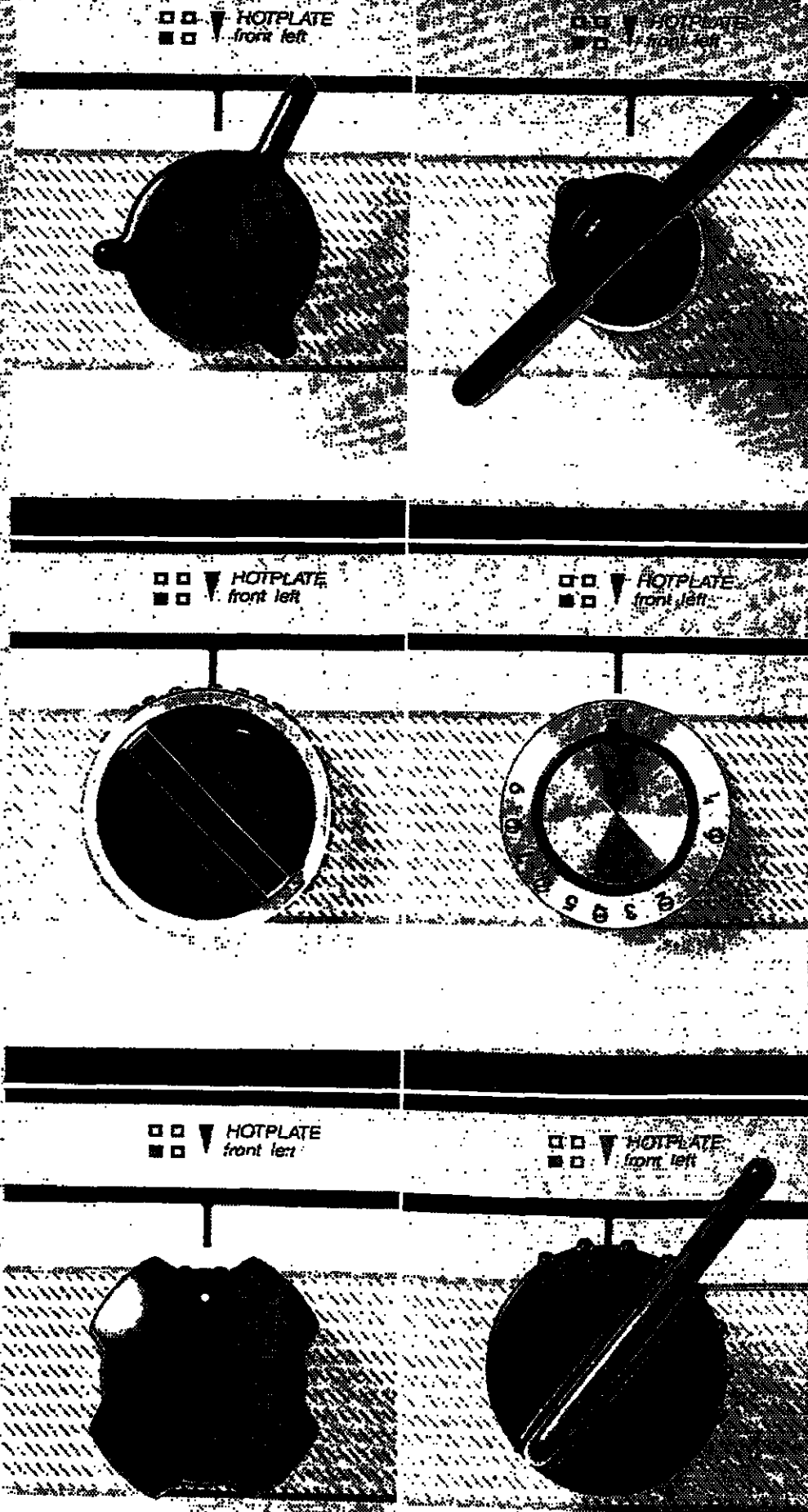
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Our specialist advisers, who can be contacted through any gas showroom, will tell you about the adapters and the other ways we're helping older or dis-



abled people. The Gas Cares project, which we have launched, will use our service to help or disabled customers by recording any important needs that may arise. If you're ever in any doubt about the controllability of our appliances, call in the nearest gas showroom and see our FREEPOST booklet.

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☐ Advice for Older People.

☐ Our Cassette for the Visually Impaired.

Are you a member of a Caring Profession? ☐

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British Gas



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We are the only organisation for all carers. Help us to listen to carers - we need sponsorship and grants for producing information, organising events, training and informing professionals as part of our "Listen to Carers" campaign.

Please contact Jill Pitkeathley, Director, Carers National Association at 29 Chilworth Mews, London W2 3RG or telephone 071-724 7776.



Last year nearly 4000 elderly people died of hypothermia. Are you so cold as to turn the page?

During the big freeze of 1990 it was the elderly who suffered most. Inadequate housing and a lack of care produced this appalling tragedy.

Anchor is doing everything it can to provide the housing and protection to prevent this kind of catastrophe from happening again this year.

As a charity with over 30,000 people in our care, we urgently need donations to continue our work. Please help us to help elderly people.

Please accept my donation of: ☐ £75 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £

(Please make cheques/postal orders payable to Anchor Housing Trust)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

I wish to donate by Access/Visa

Card No. _____

Expiry date: _____ Signature _____

Or phone 0865-311511 to make your credit card donation

☐ Please send me your free booklet on how to make a will

To Anchor Housing Trust, Freeport, Anchor House, 266a Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7BL

Charity Reg. No. 279778 Patron: HRH Princess Alexandra

JPL/101/20



Nursing help for people needing care: Sue Allen, the matron, and Doreen Stirling-Wyllie at the PPP Wimbledon Beaumont home in London

Staying well at home

What would happen to you if you were elderly, lived alone, and found increasing difficulty with tasks such as bathing and dressing? Would you need to give up your independence or would you rather be helped to stay in your own home?

Private health insurance, from companies such as Bupa and Western Medical, has long offered cover for episodes of acute medical care. Equally, many have schemes for retired people. Premiums for the retired also attract tax relief, even when taken out on a parent's behalf.

The independent sector has also moved into "close care", providing nursing care for older people with varying levels of dependency and in a variety of options. However, the government has recognised that most people would prefer to stay at home for as long as possible in its Care in the Community proposals, due to come fully into effect in April next year, under which local authorities would be responsible for services designed to look after people at home.

Insurers have only discovered a market niche — that of covering long-

Private health schemes may suit people who value their independence, Pat Blair reports

term care — in the past year. Six companies have started to operate in this area: Commercial Union, MGI Lifetime, Cannon Lincoln, MGI Prime, Aetna and Eagle Star.

Broadly, the schemes offer insurance cover for the services needed when age or disability means people are no longer fully independent. The trigger for benefit is when the policyholder cannot perform two, three, or four defined daily activities, such as bathing, dressing, using the lavatory or eating, and is receiving care. Most, although not all, policies cover mental impairment as well as physical frailty.

To give an idea of the levels of premium and benefits that might be expected, PPP Lifetime provides benefits of £800 a month (or around £10,000 a year) with full progressive cover. A man entering the scheme at the age of 60 would pay a premium of £50 a month. For a woman of the same age on entry it would be £52. A man aged 70 would pay £95 a month,

a woman £104. PPP Lifetime also allows for home adaptations such as handrails and wheelchair access to a value of £5,000. Premiums can also be index-linked to provide benefits that are not eroded by inflation.

Such benefits are paid tax-free as long as the insurer is involved in arranging the care, and the benefits are paid to the care provider.

There is confusion about where health care ends and social care starts. The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts (Nahat), which represents NHS providers, told a Commons committee last May it had evidence that local authorities were working on the basis that the NHS would be responsible for meeting the costs of patients in nursing homes requiring continuous care.

However, Nahat said, the government white paper, *Caring for People*, indicated that local authorities would pay nursing home fees.

But perhaps there is a sound reason for politicians to be unwilling to tackle the issue. A report, "The Challenges of Ageing", published last September by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, noted: "In contrast to acute health care provided by the NHS... most state funding of long-term social care is means tested. Given the future of long-term social care, it may well be inevitable that government, of whatever political colour, will... provide a safety net only for those without means."

Colin Redman, managing director of PPP Lifetime, says: "That would certainly coincide with our views. State assistance is quite limited: if people have assets over £8,000, and if they go into long-term care, they are already having to meet, in most circumstances, all of the cost themselves."

He adds a warning: "It is important that long-term care cover should be provided by a plan that cannot be cancelled by the insurer and must remain in force if the policyholder pays the premiums."

A short cut to treatment

Elderly people do not complain and so do not get treated as quickly

Older people are not demanding enough and, as a result, do not receive the level of medical attention that the rest of the population has come to expect. That was the thrust of comments by some eminent physicians late last year during the launch of a Royal College of Physicians' report on preventive medicine (*Pat Blair writes*).

Family doctors are an important gateway to other services, whether through referrals to medical specialists, home nursing services or "social care" agencies. If an ailment has not responded to treatment, it is not unreasonable to ask for a consultant's advice: specialists, by their nature, are likely to be more up-to-date in their field, although GPs often have an interest in a particular speciality.

Under government reforms, some family doctors, "budget holders", have been given funds by the health department to buy services for their patients, wherever they can get them. Some GPs have contracts with local hospitals for speedy treatment, or can refer patients to hospitals with short waiting lists.

For patients of non-budget-holding GPs, the district health authority decides whether it will pay for treatment in a hospital in another area with shorter waiting lists. In this respect, government reforms have reduced patient choice under the old system, any family doctor could theoretically refer you to any National Health Service hospital in the country.

The College of Health, which runs a telephone helpline for consumers, carries computerised information on waiting lists in 12 specialities and offers advice on how to get the best out of the system. For example, Ealing Hospital, west London, has probably one of the shortest waits in the country for orthopaedic referrals to both out-patients (one month) and in-patients (a month). Bridgend General Hospital, in West Glamorgan, claims no waiting list at all for hernia operations; in a Rugby hospi-

tal there is an out-patient wait of four weeks, in-patient wait of five weeks, and at Epsom there is a combined wait of eight weeks.

But things can change more rapidly than sometimes the figures show, not least because of demand rising as a result of a helpline call.

Marion Rigge, the College of Health's director, says: "One service we can provide is to tell patients how long they will have to wait in their own district. If they have been on the waiting list around the two-year mark, we would probably advise them to get in touch with the consultant or the general manager at the hospital, or the district general manager. Often that does speed things up."

"Alternatively, if it looks like a long wait and they've just joined the waiting list, we would search and come up with the shortest waiting list within their region — or further afield."

An expert on hospital wait-

ing lists, John Yates, the research fellow at the University of Birmingham, says: "Waiting times are more important than in-patient lists. In England, there is little doubt that the long wait lists are coming down each quarter. That's the good news."

"What we don't know is whether it has been done at the expense of out-patient waiting times, because the NHS doesn't record in-patient and out-patient waiting times."

Ms Rigge says: "Clearly it is a problem if it's regarded as a solution to waiting lists to say, 'Well, if I call, I'll treat you within two years. I'm not going to take you on to the waiting list at all. Although that might help to make the figures better, it isn't helping the patient.'

"There have been reports in the medical press of GPs saying they had had patients referred back to them from hospital and we have had one or two patients saying the same thing. But we haven't any statistical evidence that it is happening."

According to past research by Mr Yates, the over-60s do not slip to the end of queues. Middle-aged groups are under-represented on long-term waiting lists.

College of Health waiting list helpline: 081-983-1133 (Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm)

Orthopaedics: hips/knees replacements etc				
Number on list	6-11 months (%)	12-23 months (%)	2 years or more (%)	
Best:				
Rugby	122	2	0	0
Tameside	154	1	0	0
Worst:				
Bristol	70	3	19	64
Riverside	1,883	25	31	25
(SW London)	581	25	29	23
Wolverhampton				
Ophthalmology (cataracts etc)				
Number on list	6-11 months (%)	12-23 months (%)	2 years or more (%)	
Best:				
Dewsbury	107	1	0	0
Croydon	227	1	0	0
Kettering	124	0	0	0
Worst:				
Rochele	1,863	30	32	6
Salford	63	40	37	6
Oldham	876	35	33	4

Equipped with the right tools

Technology for the elderly — equipment to help them get on with their daily lives — is often regarded as a Cinderella subject... or worse.

"It's an area of awful neglect," says Professor Jim Sandhu, head of the Special Needs Research Unit at Newcastle Polytechnic. "Britain has about 12 million pensioners, at least 1.5 million of whom require help from somebody else."

There is research on the elderly, the professor says, but most of it is into the ageing process — subjects such as memory failure or hand-eye co-ordination. Little research is done on equipment.

There are, however, a few exceptions. The most notable are the Brunel Institute for Bio-engineering, an independent institute at Brunel University, near Heathrow, and Remap, a charity whose 2,000 or so members, many of them engineers and technicians, design and build specialist equipment for the disabled and the old.

Brunel aims to give elderly people what Professor Heinz Wolff, the institute's founder, calls "tools for living". Surprisingly, perhaps, the work goes on side by side with the institute's work on space research. This combination is not as odd as it seems, Professor Wolff says. An arthritic person who perhaps cannot see very well is not all that different to an astronaut. Both are ill-matched to their environments.

The institute's aids for the elderly are often "low-tech" devices that restore lost or impaired function.

George Torrens, a Brunel designer, for example, is looking at ways around "hand dysfunction", hand problems associated with arthritis and other crippling diseases. If an person's hands are crippled with arthritis, holding a pan may be a big problem.

One simple solution may be to equip even the smallest pan with a second handle, such as those that are standard on the largest type of pan. The team will also look at types of grips, including perhaps one where the pan is lifted by the wrists rather than the fingers.

The difficulty with products for old people and the disabled, says John Wright, a consulting engineer and Remap's part-time national organiser, is that mass-produced goods are often inadequate for particular needs.

"All sorts of trays and adaptations can be attached

to wheelchairs, for example, but because a person may have a limited movement in a particular limb, the standard adaptation does not completely suit the individual's requirements."

Two technological areas in which there has been progress are telecommunications and alarm systems.

Many of the developments in telecommunications are

simple but effective. British Telecom's new Converse phone, for example, has a flashing indicator to let the hard of hearing know of incoming calls.

Alarm systems, which are worn by the user and usually activated at the touch of a button, are now very popular, but a close relative of the alarm, the electronic tag, is causing controversy. Tags are

aimed at the confused who may wander without notice and endanger themselves.

Earlier this month a report from the charity Council and Care which advises old people and their families on residential and nursing homes suggested that the ethics of devices like this needed to be widely debated.

MALCOLM BROWN



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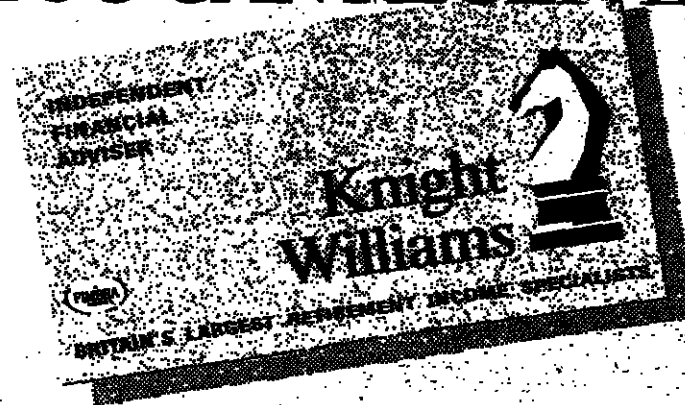
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THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 31 1992

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Queen's Bench Division

Law Report January 31 1992

Chancery Division

Parties cannot create jurisdiction

Power to curb share voting rights

Regina v Durham City Council, Ex parte Robinson and Others
Before Mr Justice Pill
[Judgment January 23]
Parties could not by agreement create jurisdiction in judicial review and it was for the court to determine whether a sufficient element of public law was present. It was for the parties to provide evidence on which the court could decide whether to proceed by way of judicial review.
Mr Justice Pill so held in the Queen's Bench Division refusing an application for judicial review of a decision by Durham City Council to terminate licences of Geraldine Robinson and six other stallholders in the city's market.
Mr Mark Halliwell for the applicants; Mr Richard Humphreys for the respondent.
MR JUSTICE PILL said the applicants were seeking a declaration that the respondent council had acted unlawfully in terminating their licences, an order of certiorari to quash the termina-

Standard Chartered Bank v Walker and Another
TSB Bank plc v Same
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment December 18]
The court had jurisdiction, akin to its *Mareva* power, to grant an injunction to restrain a defendant from doing something which would be a breach of the terms of a contract. The jurisdiction was not limited to the case where a defendant sought to remove his assets from the jurisdiction or embarked on an uncharacteristically extravagant way of living.
Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division on two motions by Standard Chartered Bank and TSB Bank plc seeking injunctions against George Walker and Birdcage Walk Ltd, the defendants.
Mr Michael Burton, QC and Mr Robin Dicker for the banks; Mr David Oliver, QC and Mr Steven Gee for the defendants.
MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that Mr Walker and Birdcage Walk Ltd, a Hong Kong company, were substantial shareholders in Brent Walker plc. Brent Walker was to hold an extraordinary general meeting. The defendants' preference shares carried voting rights of 5 to 10 per cent of the votes capable of being exercised. That percentage might be critical. The banks sought either a mandatory injunction requiring the defendants to vote in favour of a negative injunction restricting them from voting against the banks' resolution or, in the alternative, an order that the effect of the resolutions, if passed, would be first, to confirm a proposal for reconstructing Brent Walker and second, to remove Mr Walker and a colleague, Mr Hemmingsway, from their offices as non-executive directors.
The banks, who proposed that reconstruction and the liabilities

to whom exceeded the likely realisable assets of Brent Walker, were not willing to go ahead with the reconstruction arrangements unless Mr Walker and Mr Hemmingsway were removed.
It was accepted for the purposes of the motions that Mr Walker and Birdcage Walk should be treated as having no assets against which a judgment could be enforced except their Brent Walker shares.
The banks believed that if the reconstruction arrangements were not approved the collapse of Brent Walker would be inevitable and the shares would be worthless. They sought injunctions restraining the defendants from exercising their votes otherwise than in a way which would assist in ensuring that the reconstruction proposals were not defeated and, as a necessary part of that, Mr and Mrs Walker and Mr Hemmingsway would cease to be directors.
The banks submitted that the court had jurisdiction, on the grounds which underlay the banks' jurisdiction to grant *Mareva* relief, to grant an injunction to restrain a defendant from doing something which would be a breach of the terms of a contract. It was argued that the court should be able to enforce its jurisdiction to grant *Mareva* relief, to grant an injunction to restrain a defendant from doing something which would be a breach of the terms of a contract. It was argued that the court should be able to enforce its jurisdiction to grant *Mareva* relief, to grant an injunction to restrain a defendant from doing something which would be a breach of the terms of a contract.

had come to the conclusion that the banks had shown that a vote against the restructuring facilities would cause that boundary.
To his mind, opposing or in any way obstructing the reconstruction proposals would be so pointlessly harmful that, whatever motive inspired it, it would amount to the wilful dissipation of assets which the court had jurisdiction, consistently with the *Mareva* principles, to prevent.
There was an added feature in the instant case. Each of the plaintiff banks had a charge on other shares on which they were in a position to vote. The security they had over their shares would be destroyed along with any prospect of executing a judgment against shares beneficially owned by the defendants.
The defendants said that the proposition that a creditor with a security over shares should be entitled to prevent a defendant from voting on shares over which he had no security in order to preserve the value of the shares over which he had security was an extravagant one.
His Lordship did not think it was an extravagant proposition. It was an unusual situation, but the situation was that the shares over which the security existed could not be preserved except in a way which also preserved the other shares. But the aim was, *quoad* those shares, to ensure that the debtor did not act in a way which was destructive of the security he had given to the creditor.
However that jurisdiction was described, whether it was waste or brought under some other head, there was no doubt that the courts of equity did have jurisdiction to restrain conduct which would destroy property over which a debtor had given a charge in appropriate, and no doubt rare, circumstances.
His Lordship would grant the injunctions sought.
Solicitors: Theodore Goddard; D. J. Freeman & Co.

Wilful default finding valid after assessment agreed

Nuttall v Barrett (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Mr Justice Jonathan Parker
[Judgment January 24]
An agreement by a taxpayer with his tax inspector as to the amount of an estimated assessment to capital gains tax, when knowing that it understated his liability, entitled general commissioners to make a finding of wilful default against him.
Mr Justice Jonathan Parker so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing an appeal by the

By Raymond Keene
This position is a variation from the game *Short - Ljubovje*, Amsterdam 1991. What was the cunning finish Nigel had planned for this position?
Solution below.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2702

ACROSS
1 Rudimentary (6)
5 Put over knee (5)
8 Take seat (3)
9 Pungent bulb (6)
10 Fervent (6)
11 French detective (4)
12 Magazine-series book
14 Joint line bowler (6)
15 Sport out (6)
16 Be prominent (5,3)
18 Aspiration (4)
19 Mourn (6)
21 Character (6)
DOWN
2 Whatever the conditions (2,3,8)
3 Cop (9)
4 Absconder (7)
5 Steps series (5)
7 Udd-shaped type (7,6)
13 Ate up (5,1,3)
15 Devilish (7)
17 On the fringe (5)
20 Plunder (3)

Pirating akin to theft

Regina v Carter
Counterfeiting of video tapes was a serious offence and to distribute pirated copies of film was in effect to steal from the copyright's true owner property for which he had had to pay money in order to possess.
Mr Justice Jowitt so stated on January 24 when sitting in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) with Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Kennedy and giving the judgment of the court dismissing an

Injunction power over contract
PSM International plc v Whitehouse and Another
The court had power to grant an injunction against a former employee to restrain him from fulfilling a contract already made with a third party in breach of the plaintiff's right to protect his trade secrets.
The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Neill) so stated in reserved judgments on January 23 when dismissing an appeal by the defendants. Keith Charles Whitehouse and Willem Hendrik van der Linde, who were former employees of PSM International plc, had been employed by the plaintiff for a number of years. They had been employed by the plaintiff for a number of years. They had been employed by the plaintiff for a number of years.

SOLUTION TO NO 2701
ACROSS: 3 Eire 5 Clam 8 Shock 10 Arbitrary 11 Ergot
12 Ewe 13 Dieter 14 Some day 16 Expanse 18 Lupus 20 Age
22 No-one 23 Rewarding 24 Trail 25 Tang 26 Myth
DOWN: 1 Ascend 2 Longship 3 Ekaterinburg 4 Rabies 6 Lead
7 Mayday 9 At some length 15 Diplomat 16 Exort 17 Easily
19 Smelly 21 Twin

CHANNEL 4

- 9.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (1050412)
- 9.25 **Schools** (11483758)
- 12.30 **The Parliament Programme** (348389)
- 12.30 **Business Daily** (46122)
- 1.00 **Sesame Street** (41677)
- 2.00 **Film: The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (1933)
● **CHOICE:** *El Gallop* (see BBC1) sometimes bends the truth. *The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex* comes near to abandoning it. The Warner studio in the 1930s was not interested in being faithful to history, least of all the history of England. It wanted colorful subjects that would provide spectacular costume dramas for its moviegoers and stars. Thus *Bette Davis* comes to play *Queen Elizabeth* and *Errol Flynn* is the dashing young *Earl of Essex* with whom (to the film, at any rate) she falls desperately in love. Davis is actually truer to the character than anyone probably intended, showing the middle-aged monarch as imperious, dictatorial and vain, yet not without a more lenient side. Her performance dominates the film. Poor *Flynn* looks splendid but is hopelessly upstaged. There is support from *Olivia de Havilland* and *Vincent Price* and the director is *Michael Casablanca* Curtiz. (Teletext) (5677)
- 4.00 **Travelog**. *Pete McCarty* visits New England. (r.) (Teletext) (s) (734)
- 4.30 **Countdown**. *Richard Whitley* and *Carol Vorderman* host the evening news and numbers game. With *Sally James* in the 'dictionary corner' (s) (238)
- 5.00 **The Falklands War: Trusting in Luck**. Penultimate episode in the series about the Argentinian invasion of the Falklands, and the British response (r.). (Teletext) (7325)
- 6.00 **Roseanne: Happy Birthday**. Razor-sharp wit in the company of *Roseanne Barr* and *John Goodman* (r) (431)
- 6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**. Live music and conversation (s) (763)
- 7.00 **Teletext 4 News** with *Jon Snow*. (Teletext) (Weather) (506067)
- 7.50 **First Reaction**. A personal opinion on a controversial subject. (Teletext) (169257)
- 8.00 **Brookside**. Drama in the Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (7702)
- 8.30 **Quizshow**. Will Buckley referees as teams from the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday* answer questions on sport (s) (3538)
- 9.00 **Comic Relief**. Polished American comedy series set in a Boston bar. Starring *Ted Danson* and *Kirstie Alley* (2803)
- 9.30 **How Does Your Garden Grow?**. Philip Wood and David Wilson explore the elegant Dublin garden of Val and Helen Dillon (Teletext) (66986)
- 10.00 **Dream On** *Play Merville* for *Mrs. The real world continues to stretch Mr.'s fantasies*. Starring *Barry Benben* (Teletext) (s) (70530)
- 10.35 **Whose Line Is It Anyway?** *Give Anderson* invites comic improvisors from *Tony Slattery*, *Josie Lawrence*, *Paul Merton* and *Steve Frost* (845073)
- 11.05 **The Word**. Entertainment magazine (s) (503667)
- 12.05am **Film: Purple Rain** (1984). Continuing the *Rock* the *Box* season, the diminutive singer, *Prince*, stars in this film debut in a semi-autobiographical drama about an aspiring rock musician in Minnesota. Directed by *Albert Magnoli* (5030975)



In the picture: Nigel Havers and Elizabeth Hurley (9.00pm)

9.00 The Good Guys: Relative Values. Lightweight drama series about two men with the same name, guy *Guy* Loftis vs. *Nick* Loftis takes a photograph of a woman who is *Elizabeth Hurley* (8764)

10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Alastair Stewart. (Oracle)

Weather (70957) **10.35 LWT News** (71230)

10.40 The London Programme presented by Trevor Philips (113577)

11.15 Loose Cannon: Freaks. American detective series starring Shadow Stevens and Bruce A. Young (377948)

12.10am My Riviera. With nightclub owner Regine (5898913)

12.40am Married ... With Children: Requiem for a Dead Barber. A's long time barber dies (5881178)

1.05 The James Whale Radio Show. Abrasive chat (5186333)

2.10 American Gladiators. American combat (5) (5571556)

3.05 CinemaAttractions. Charlie Tuna previews *Amateur* releases (1696740) **3.35 Rock Power.** Rock music (5) (3728978)

4.35 The Koolhaas House. *Champion* series. Presented by Colin Bennett and Anne Gruger (4798178) **5.30 TNN Morning News** with Tim Neilson (RS117). Ends at 6.00

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When the small aspire to greater things: Prince (12.05am)

2.10 Tonight with Jonathan Ross (r) (s) (9858468) Ends at 2.40

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